Celebrating 20 Years of Service 1993 2013
CENTRAL AMERICAN MEDICAL OUTREACH, INC.

CAMO

A *different* kind of aid organization

Summer 2013 • Volume 21 • Issue 2 CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization.

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Crayons for Kiddies

At the end of this school year, instead of getting thrown away, thousands of used school supplies made their way into our warehouse.

Over 40 volunteers spent over 200 hours sorting and packing pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons, etc to send to kids in Honduras who aren't able to afford them!

- **41,500 crayons**
- **10,500 markers**
- **8,500 colored pencils**
- **7,400 #2 pencils**
- **1,300 notebooks**

We can't say thank you enough to all the participating schools, teachers, students and volunteers who have helped us get these tools into the hands of children in need.

These supplies will stock teachers in rural western Honduras with the essential tools their classrooms desperately need.

This year, we had several families bring their kids in to volunteer. They were amazing helpers…And what a great way for them to learn about others in need!

Still have school 'stuff' you want to donate?
You're not too late! We take these things all year long!
Feel free to drop it off at our Warehouse
Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Have a donation or interested in getting involved?
Contact our office at 330.683.5956
or email us at camo@camo.org

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CAMO Celebrates 20 Years of Outreach to Honduras

It all started from a single duffel bag. In 1993 Kathy Tschiegg set off on a journey to start what would become Central American Medical Outreach.

20th Anniversary Open House

On Sunday May 19th, the community joined us in celebrating 20 years of outreach to Honduras. At our Orrville headquarters on Westwood Ave, we welcomed the public in celebration with authentic food, live music, raffle prizes and even piñatas for the kids and showcased how CAMO has served the Honduran people over the past two decades.

Kathy: "Today is about celebrating 20 years and the volunteers with the community. We're giving back…so they can see what we've done as well as share in the celebration. We were really moved by the community's support for this event. It's incredible to see all the people who are willing to give of their time and service for these people [in Honduras] that they will never see or touch. We are extremely grateful for all that they do."

CAMO Honduras employees, Aryeny and Yeny (visiting at the time of the event) helped serve and sell coffee.

On May 19th, we opened our warehouses on Westwood Ave to the public: celebrating the work of those who have helped us get to where we are today!

Team member, Mark Gorman, speaks to open house attendees about CAMO's prosthetic lab in Honduras, showing them donated prosthesis and orthotics. The prosthetic lab serves hundreds in need each year.

CAMO Founder, Kathy Tschiegg, spoke about her time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras and her struggles and triumphs in watching CAMO grow over the last 20 years.

Team members attended the event to speak with the community about CAMO's programs in Honduras. Pictured: Heidi Unzicker explaining the need for infant care and resources at the hospitals and clinics.

TWENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

Public Hospital

Before

After

Public Hospital Kitchen

Before

After

Prior to 1998, contaminated food was being cooked on wood burning stoves and ovens which was unhealthy for not only the patients but the workers as well. Many of the staff were infected with bronchitis, lung infections and other illnesses due to the smoke they had worked with everyday. Because of these horrible working conditions, the first project that CAMO undertook was the renovations to the kitchen, providing basic cooking and refrigeration. Then in 2010, CAMO undertook further renovations that included purchasing, installing, and training for a steam tray washing system, trays, drying racks, and service carts for food delivery. This afforded individualized meals for the patients that are prepared in the kitchen, and then provided on sanitized trays.

Public Hospital Waiting Room

Before

After

Previous to the addition of a new waiting room, patients waited outside in the streets to receive care. Mildew covered the interior and exterior walls, needing immediate repair. CAMO also analyzed flow from the new ER to surgery, to the lab. So working from the front of the hospital to the back, renovations to the hospital took place to include a training center, endoscopy, waiting areas, a new x-ray department and trauma room.

Public Hospital Laundry

Before CAMO, the laundry staff of four women washed nearly 800 pounds of laundry by hand daily, carrying the loads up and down the hill to and from the hospital. So CAMO installed 3 industrial washing machines and 4 industrial dryers in 2000, providing sufficient linens for all areas of the hospital including sterile linens for surgery.

Before

After

CAMO!

Before

It all started from a single duffel bag. In 1993 Kathy Tschiegg set off on a journey to start what would become Central American Medical Outreach. 20 years later, over 5 semi-trailers worth of supplies make their way to Honduras each year, full of repurposed medical supplies and equipment: providing medical services and social support to the people of Honduras!

After

Public Health Center

Remember Claudia's and Cooper's trip last summer to Rhode Island? They picked up donated medical equipment that will eventually fill the 14 new clinics at the Public Health Center in Santa Rosa, Honduras. This equipment has been patiently waiting at CAMO's storage building on Troyer Rd. in Orrville for us to be able to load it on to a trailer bound for Honduras.

A few weeks ago, volunteers helped us load all 14 rooms full of equipment onto a trailer to be transported to the health center in Honduras, currently under reconstruction. To aid in this process, Dr. Lourdes Villela, Director of the Public Health Center in Santa Rosa, travelled to Orrville to help us properly select the right equipment for the new building, and stage how the new clinics will look.

Construction is currently under way to remodel the Public Health Center which was in extreme disrepair. This Center provides more than 200 services per day: vaccines, baby check-ups, prenatal care and early detection and prevention of cancer. Any support would be greatly appreciated. If interested, please make your check out to CAMO and designate "Public Health Clinic" in the memo line; or donate online at www.camo.org. **You can now text to donate:** just text CAMO to 343434. **No matter how small, all donations are appreciated.**

Claudia & Cooper travelled to Rhode Island to collect a miracle donation - 14 fully equipped exam rooms to supply our renovations to the Public Clinic in Honduras.

The donated equipment from Rhode Island has been waiting for construction to be completed in Honduras.

Dr. Lourdes (right), Director of the Public Health Center helped stage the donated equipment for the new clinic rooms.

Artist rendering of the Public Health Center once completed.

Roof construction on the Public Health Center.

Construction is in full swing on the Public Health Center in Santa Rosa and is expected to be completed in 2014.

Pat Haslage – *Pat not only sorts respiratory supplies at our warehouse, but she also travels with the international teams to Honduras, training medial staff at the hospital.*

Harold Cooper – *Driver (Harold's wife Betty volunteers too!)*

Don Miller – Don has been volunteering with us for years, as a faithful packer of medical supplies.

Helen Smith – *CAMO Employee, Data Entry. Helen started volunteering before becoming an official employee, taking on several hats within the organization.*

Karen Burgett – *CAMO Employee, Administration*

Geneva Horst & Terry Waren – *Sorting & Packing*

U.S. Volunteers

CAMO has two locations: one in Honduras *(Santa Rosa)*, and the other in the United States *(Orrville, Ohio)*. Located on Westwood Ave, just off Market Street in Orrville, our USA warehouse is a bustle of activity; with daily volunteers and a lot of work being accomplished. Our Orrville location is where we collect donations, have them sorted, packed, and loaded onto trailers to be sent to Honduras. Without the help of everyone in the states, the services we render in Honduras would simply not happen.

Myron Horst & Ed Rider – *Drivers who pick up donated equipment and supplies each week.*

Ted Crawford – Pictured here with the deck he built outside our warehouse for volunteers to enjoy lunch. Ted first volunteered with CAMO as a dentist on the February teams, and since then has been a valuable asset by donating much of his time and skills.

Tim Larson – *Tim travels with the international teams to Honduras as a Respiratory Therapist, training medical staff at the hospital and helps sort respiratory equipment and supplies at our warehouse too!*

Volunteers helping with the newsletter mailing.

Mort Curie & *Operations Manager,* **Claudia**

There are many volunteers that dedicate their time & skills at our U.S. facility that we do not have pictured here.

Wava Kornhaus – *Nurse*

Ralph Winey

Mary Tschiegg
Mother of Founder, Kathy Tschiegg

Marsha Jones – *Colostomy*

Alfie Moser – *Data Entry*

Wayne Presbyterian Church volunteers–
a group from Wayne Presbyterian volunteers every Friday, sorting and packing.
(If a group from your church is interested in getting involved, let us know!)

Anne Wilson – *Data Entry*

CAMO turns every $1 donated into $4 of service – thanks to the help of our many volunteers!

We depend on our volunteers to regularly lend a hand in the U.S. (and Honduras): and we couldn't accomplish all that we do without their help. From sorting and packing supplies, crating equipment, loading the trailers, and so much more! Biomedical engineers, nurses, doctors, retirees, church groups, and even youngsters—each and every person's contribution adds to our success.

John Croft – *Sorting Prosthetics*

John McKeal –
Sorting & Packing

John & Andrew Rehm –
Sorting school supplies.

Wanda Croft – *Nurse*

Joyce Shelton –
Placing boxes onto our warehouse shelves.

Nanette Sprunger –
Nurse

We cannot adequately express in words our appreciation to these hard working individuals. Thank You!

What Makes Us Different?

If you've heard someone talk about CAMO, you've most likely heard them use the term 'counterpart'. But have you ever wondered what a 'counterpart' is, and why it makes CAMO so different?

CAMO's mission is to create sustainable development in Honduras. So not only does CAMO provide medical programs and community projects, but medical education and counterpart training that is focused on providing sustainability to the community. CAMO pairs Honduran doctors and nurses with American experts who together address a problem and work together to combat it. The relationship between a visiting professional and local doctor/nurse is called their counterpart. These individuals provide support for one another year round, through education, training, and improved resources.

As Dr. Tony Lazcano described it: "I don't come down [to Honduras] just to take care of patients. I come down here to train the physicians who will then take care of the patients after I leave. So my impact persists long after I'm gone. I can only see a certain amount of patients while here, but if I train the physicians it's innumerable the amount of patients I can see."

This May, CAMO Honduras employees Alan (director), Aryeny (operations), and Yeny (administration) visited our U.S. warehouse to meet with each counterpart team, view our Orrville warehouse and experience U.S. operations. The team members discussed strategies for future trips to Honduras, how to provide better materials and resources to their Honduran counterparts, and how to improve and continue the services being provided to the people of Western Honduras.

Aryeny is the Operations Manager in Honduras. Her job is to correspond with the doctors and nurses about their needs and then communicate that need to operations in the states, so counterparts can try and fill the gap. This was her first time visiting the U.S. warehouse but she summed up her trip as a "unique and unparalleled experience." After meeting with the counterparts Aryeny said, "I was able to capture ideas from the U.S. counterparts, along with improvements to apply to our programs in Honduras." Meetings like these are crucial to improving the relationships between counterparts and increasing the quality of care to the people we serve.

"I've also seen, over the years, that our impact has gone far beyond Santa Rosa. We work with a lot of interns that go out to the different parts of the country, and I've heard back from that; how they are using and spreading some of the things that they've learned from here to other parts of the country. It's exciting for me to see that."
Dr. Tony Lazcano works with and trains the local medical staff in the Santa Rosa public hospital ER.

CAMO Honduras employees Aryeny, Alan and Yeny spent a week in the U.S. meeting with team members, discussing improvements to the way we are able to care for the people in Honduras.

Neurosurgery

Last October, CAMO sent its first Neurosurgery team to Honduras consisting of Neurosurgeon Dr. J.C. Tabet, surgical technologist Martin Kersten, operating room nurse Mary Harris and a CRNA Ed Rhodes. This counterpart team trained the nursing staff in the hospital OR along with Dr. Roberto Alvarez (Neurosurgeon in Honduras) on the use of instruments and their components. The team also performed 12 complex surgeries alongside their Honduran counterparts with only the bare necessities in the Honduran public hospital.

Since then, Dr. Alvarez and Dr. Tabet have continued their relationship through emails, with Tabet acting as mentor for Alvarez in Honduras. "For me, as the only neurosurgeon in the city of Santa Rosa and western Honduras, it is of utmost importance and advantage to have the opportunity to share experiences, knowledge, and to receive the support of my counterpart team," says Alvarez. This support aims to improve the conditions of medical practices in Honduras, in this case in neurosurgery, reducing mortality and morbidity of patients. This summer Dr. Alvarez came to the United States to shadow Dr. Tabet at Aultman Hospital to help the two teams become more connected, not only with each other but with Tabet's network of supporters in the states. With the upcoming October teams, this trip allowed the two surgeons to become better prepared for their week of service in Honduras, helping Alvarez to communicate his needs, and helping CAMO to bridge the gap of surgical care in Honduras.

For the second time the neurosurgery team will travel to Honduras this October, to provide training and surgeries at the public hospital in Santa Rosa. Says Alvarez: "These teams will bring life and hope to people who had no real chance of proper treatment before."

"My visit to Aultman Hospital with Dr. Tabet was a great experience: the staff was full of warmth and hospitality. Thank you Aultman Hospital and CAMO!"

Dr. Alvarez with his counterpart Dr. Tabet, at Aultman Hospital.

Dr. Alvarez (right) working with Dr. Tabet (middle) during the October teams last fall in Santa Rosa. They performed dozens of surgeries for patients in need.

To learn more about CAMO visit **camo.org**

Miracle Steps

Meet Maicol: when he was just 3 months old he was diagnosed with hydrocephalus (or water head). Hydrocephalus is when cerebral spinal fluid doesn't drain from the brain, leading to brain damage, a loss in mental and physical abilities, and in extreme cases death.

But Maicol's mother wasn't able to afford the surgery. So they turned to CAMO.

That's where Dr. Alvarez comes in. He works with CAMO to perform surgeries for people in need who can't afford the high price! He was able to place a valve in Maicol's brain, allowing the fluid to drain. This surgery saved Maicol's life. And now, three years later Maicol is able to take his first steps. Steps made possible by CAMO and the Neurosurgery program.

We would like to thank The Giving Doll (thegivingdoll.com) for placing smiles on the faces of many of our patients by making wonderful dolls for children in need.

Maicol was diagnosed with 'water head' at 3 months old. Without CAMO he would have died. Now, 3 years later, he is taking his first steps and living a normal life! Wow!

The Gift of Sight

A young boy sat patiently on his mother's lap, waiting to be seen by CAMO's eye team. As he stared blankly ahead, it was clear that he was unable to see much that was the chaos of his surroundings. The waiting room was packed with countless individuals who had come from miles away; some waiting hours, even days to be seen. But this little boy just sat, with two gray eyes…unable to see.

A few days later, the same boy sat patiently on his mother's lap outside the Operating Suite, waiting to get his bandages removed. The doctors slowly unwrapped and examined his new eyes. The boy quickly looked down and saw the phone in his mother's hand…and as all little kids do, started to play.

This little boy was days away from losing his chance at sight forever. Born with cataracts in both eyes, he was nearing an age where even surgery wouldn't have restored his vision. But thanks to CAMO's eye team, he was given a chance at sight and a bright future.

Dr. Marco Robles, son of Hector Robles, saw this little boy and knew he would need care from the CAMO teams.

This little boy was born with cataracts in both eyes. Living his young life unable to see, the February teams gifted him with the chance to live a bright future: cataract free, and full of new sights!

JOIN US: Salsa Sizzle

Did you know that until 1997 assaulting your wife or girlfriend wasn't considered a crime in Honduras? Or that statistics estimate an incident of domestic violence occurs every 20 minutes? Domestic violence is the leading cause of death for women in Western Honduras: but CAMO is attempting to break the cycle of violence!

In 2010 CAMO completed the largest shelter in Central America, providing a safe haven for women and their families. And with the hope of breaking the cycle of domestic violence for future generations, this shelter has also become a source for community education.

You can help support CAMO and our fight against domestic violence by attending the Salsa Sizzle on August 17th. Located at the Wooster Inn, this event has helped raise over $60,000 the past four years to benefit the Women's shelter in Santa Rosa, Honduras. For only $40/ticket you'll enjoy a live Latin jazz band, bountiful Latin-inspired food, celebrity bartending competition (featuring a full cash bar), a live auction and more! And that $40 will provide a safe home, food, clothing, support groups, therapy, medical care, and more, to a woman and her children.

Help break the cycle of violence in Honduras—become an advocate for these women by educating for a violence-free future.

Santa Rosa's Women's Shelter

Purchase your tickets to the Salsa Sizzle at our CAMO office, at Buehler's Milltown and Orrville or at The Wooster Inn. Call 330.683.5956 for more information.

Interested in learning more about our work at the shelter? Visit our website at www.CAMO.org. ***You'd be surprised what a simple donation can do...***

The women's shelter in Santa Rosa is working to break the cycle of violence by becoming a source of community education: offering workshops for youth on teen dating violence (pictured), awareness campaigns, counseling and more!

Don't Forget Us This Christmas

Help CAMO continue to provide life-saving and life-changing services in Honduras. This holiday season, don't spend your money on something conventional; put it where it counts. Give the gift of caring this holiday season by re-imaging gift giving for yourself, and for your loved ones. You can designate your giving in memory or in honor of someone special.

Personalize a gift card by placing your order online at www.camo.org. With our gift catalog you can choose a unique item to donate in honor of friends and family.

Give a Gift that Really Matters!

Golf Outing

We had 19 teams show up to play at The Pines for our 8th Annual Golf Outing, raising over $11,000!

The Wenger Team: Howard Wenger, HJ Wenger, Don Downs and Jonathan Downs came away with the win while Team Bogner *(pictured)* was close behind in second place. We are extremely grateful for everyone who supported us through sponsorships, teams, volunteering & donations. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event!

Team Bogner: *(left to right)* Austin Doerr, Ted Bogner, Dave Lust, Jake Buckwalter

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Upcoming Events

August 17 **Salsa Sizzle at The Wooster Inn** 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

September 7–12 **Wayne County Fair**
Be sure to stop by CAMO's booth at the Wayne County Fair (located in the Commercial/Snyder Building). Drop off any eyeglasses, ink cartridges, cell phones, school supplies, etc. that you would like to donate!

Did you know Americans create 65 tons of waste every year just by throwing away cell phones?!
Cell phones contain hazardous materials and can pollute the environment! Do you have an old cell phone tucked away in a drawer? Would you like to do something useful with that cell phone? We recycle old cell phones and use the profits to help serve those in need. Bring your phones to the fair and donate them to CAMO!

September 26-29 **Project Honduras Conference**
Executive Director and Founder Kathy Tschiegg will be the moderator of the sessions concerning sustainable development, over 100 organizations attend this conference.

October 10-13 **Honduran Peace Corps Volunteer Gathering**
Executive Director and Founder Kathy Tschiegg will share the continued success of CAMO with over 400 former Peace Corps volunteers that previously served in Honduras.

October 13 **Claudia Caballero, US Operations Manager, will be speaking at the Sterling United Methodist Church**

October 27–Nov. 3 **October Teams**
The October Teams will be heading to Honduras to work with their counterparts! To learn more about CAMO's international volunteers and counterparts, visit www.camo.org/programs.

Visit our website camo.org for more information
When you are done with this issue, please pass it along to someone you know who may be interested in our mission.

CAMO is accredited by the Better Business Bureau and meets all 21 standards.