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CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization.

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CAMO

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Executive Director Editorial

Children of Honduras: Which is better, proactive or reactive?

Everyone who knows CAMO has asked me about the children of Honduras coming to the USA. What is the real story? To understand the truth, I must first clarify a few points. I apologize in advance for the length of this editorial, but please bear with me.

Regarding the influx of Honduran children fleeing to the USA:

In 2006, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) redefined the term Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC). Here, "unaccompanied" does not refer to a child's traveling condition. Since children are separated from their parents, guardians and family members during DHS processing at the USA border, these children are defined as "Unaccompanied Alien Children" (UAC). According to Bipartisan Policy Center, no accurate public information is available to say how many children are removed from their family members during the DHS process. Source: Graham, M. (2014, June 30). Child Migration by the Numbers. Retrieved August 7, 2014.

Regarding murder rates in Honduras:

All information and statistics show that the rate of violence in Honduras has increased. This is a general statement, however, which needs some clarification. San Pedro (Honduras), Guatemala City (Guatemala) and Caracas (Venezuela) have murder rates in excess of 110/100,000. These are the highest ratios in the world according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Since I live in Santa Rosa 6 months out of the year, I raised my eyebrow on those statistics. Numbers published for Honduras demonstrate poor data collection and criteria. A little digging revealed that the murder rate in some cases reflects the residency of the victim instead of the location of the crime. For example, if the murder rate in Detroit is 60/100,000 we here in the States accept that this number shows that 60 murders occur in Detroit for every 100,000 people. In Honduras, however, that same number means that 60 people *from* that city (per 100,000) were murdered. Once I learned the method behind these statistics, I went straight to the police chief of Santa Rosa. Together we reviewed all the deaths in Santa Rosa de Copan for 2013. With an urban population of 42,696 in 2013, Santa Rosa attributed 10 deaths to violence (or 23/100,000). Between January 1 and June 30, 2014, Santa Rosa had 6 cases of violent death (or 13/100,000). To put this in perspective, Cleveland, Ohio's ratio reads 20/100,000.

Families in these violent areas in Honduras are faced with coercion, extortion, kidnapping, and coercive and forcible recruitment of their children into gangs. These gangs then take over communities and homes. Families are faced with corruption at all levels with nowhere to turn. There are thousands of stories around these human tragedies. I often wonder what we in the States would do under these same circumstances, especially since the United States of America was founded on the promise of opportunity. Immigration to this country with the hope of a better life is not a new trend. Families fleeing from violence to a safe haven defines our nation.

CAMO's role and impact:

Santa Rosa de Copan is one of the largest 20 cities of Honduras. Logic tells us that larger cities should reflect more violence, not less. Yet, this city sits in a pocket of relative safety, while high rates of deadly violence consume areas only 2 hours away.

We need to define what is working so we can be proactive with prevention instead of being reactive with knee-jerk responses to the present border crisis. In 2004, the CAMO Board of Directors saw a need for community development, expanding from CAMO's medical focus. We saw the needs of the community and the lack of focus on youth. We experienced the devastation of Hurricane Mitch and the displacement of one fifth of the Honduran population. As a result, we started to focus on community development with facilities and programming for youth beginning with the community gym and a daycare, both abandoned and non-functional at the time. We first created a safe environment by finishing construction, then we incorporated programming. Today, the daycare has 90 children per day enrolled and more than 300 children per day use the gym – the only gym in the western part of Honduras. In 2004, the abandoned trade school had no students and the building was vacant and decaying. By 2005, CAMO reformed the trade school board of directors and today 600 youth per year graduate with a marketable skill set. In 2006, CAMO was asked to help build a cultural center which would provide opportunities in music, dance, art, and radio broadcasting for the youth of Santa Rosa. Since its completion, we continue to support the cultural center with donations as more than 30 youth per day use the facility. In 2010, the women's shelter was built after 5 years of community leader education. This shelter provides the family unit a safe haven in the

face of abuse or violence. Combined, these programs and services impact more than 1,000 lives per day in the Santa Rosa community.

This is what proactivity looks like. And true and honest data reflects this impact: a 2013 murder rate in Santa Rosa of 23/100,000, as reported by the Santa Rosa de Copan police chief.

During a speaking engagement four years ago at the Santa Rosa city council, some of the council members who had a reputation for corruption and self-serving decision-making were arguing over the community center. In that meeting, I posed this question: "Do you want your children, grandchildren and other loved ones to grow up in a healthy community?"



CAMO supports day care services that enable poor working women to hold down jobs to support their families. The center serves about 90 children per day.

They all nodded their heads with affirmation. Then I said, "If that's true, you have two options: start providing activities and caring for your youth today or build more prisons for tomorrow and buy coffins for your loved ones. You are the group who holds the power to make Santa Rosa a healthy community. Make good decisions for the community and for the future of your family." This is an important message, one that we here in the States should remember as budgets are slashed for services to our youth. This is more than a budget issue; this is a supply-demand drug issue in which the USA provides the demand side of the drug industry. We play a large part in providing funds to the gangs and cartels. The USA has a great responsibility to assist in the journey from violence not only in our local USA community, but also in the larger community.



CAMO's gymnasium serves 300 or more people every day. It provides a safe place for athletic activities. CAMO is working to raise funding to expand programming.

The future:

The problem will only improve with funding given to efficient and effective organizations pursuing long-term development. CAMO will continue to partner with city, state and national governments in Honduras. We will continue to support services focused on keeping the community healthy in a sea of violence. Hopefully, more people will look at the success of CAMO's model and duplicate it. In the meantime, Special Forces are needed to restore safety in drug and gang-infested regions. Although CAMO is not funded well enough to take on any more than what we presently do, if Washington sent a delegation to Santa Rosa, part of that money could be used proactively instead of reactively. It would be money well-spent to see a model of success and make a positive impact.

CAMO at Work "Miracle" baby

Every night for the past 4 weeks, the doctor and four nurses visiting from Honduras talked about their day at Aultman College of Nursing in Canton, Ohio. I often asked them about special cases they saw in Honduras. One of the visiting nurses, Kenia Calderon, recalled a case from April 2013 - a patient named Alba. A small young woman, Alba looked to be in her late thirties, but in reality she was only 24. Worn from her life on a rural farm and pregnant with her first child, Alba felt something was wrong. She headed to the clinic in Corquin where CAMO runs a prenatal program. There at the clinic, a doctor performed an ultrasound, realized Alba was at risk of losing her baby, and called for an ambulance - the quickest transportation to the Santa Rosa hospital more than an hour away. Kenia told me the hospital staff kept

Alba on bed rest for one week, but the baby had a different agenda and was born at 32 weeks gestation.

The staff used everything at their disposal to save that preemie. "The ventilators, tubes, supplies given by CAMO, the education of the nurses... they applied it all," Kenia remembered with emotion in her voice. Over time, the nurses grew attached to that fragile neonate. No name had been given to her, and her little life was a challenge for the staff in the NICU. Shift after shift, procedure after procedure... respiratory or cardiac arrest, a tracheotomy and central lines... her tiny body covered with so many tubes and lines. Yet she became weaker every day. One month after her birth, she had become so sick and so weak the doctors were sure she would die that day and gave the order for only

comfort care. "Let her go," they said.

"There is nothing more to do." But Kenia had fallen in love with that tiny preemie, who amazingly survived that day. That was the day Kenia started calling her "Miracle". One month grew into two. After two months and 15 days, Miracle went home. Then, after wiping my eyes, I asked Kenia what role CAMO played in that story. Eagerly, she and the other nurses agreed: "Without CAMO, all the equipment, tubes, materials, and education provided to the staff, Miracle would not exist." In June 2014, Kenia saw Alba and Miracle during an outpatient visit. Miracle was a normal 15-month old baby.

People like Alba rely on your support. Each one of you can make a miracle happen, so please help us to continue to create miracles every day.

The staff used everything at their disposal to save that preemie.



Without CAMO's medical support, this premature infant would not be alive today.

"Without CAMO, all the equipment, tubes, materials and education provided to the staff,
Miracle would not exist." – Honduran nurse Kenia Calderon

Revealing Preparation: Aultman College of Nurses go to Honduras, "see for themselves"

ORRVILLE -- State Departments of Health perform audits to maintain standards. Ohio standards require a registered nurse to complete 24 contact hours of continuing education during each 2-year licensure period. Standards are the norm in the United States. But what if there were no standards, no checklists and no requirements with which to comply? What if professional development required to maintain medical licensure was based on the "honor system"? Such neglect is foreign in the U.S., but in Honduras, neglect in regard to standards is the norm.

In 2012, CAMO started Phase One of an effort to standardize basic nursing care in Honduras. Earlier this year, the project received approval by the Honduran Ministry of Health as a pilot program. Four nurses from Honduras were selected and Aultman College of Nursing committed to their training. When preparing the Aultman College of Nursing staff for the nurses to come from Honduras, it became apparent to all a visit to Santa Rosa was needed. That way, the Aultman College of Nursing staff would understand the working environment of nurses at Regional Hospital Occidente in Santa Rosa. In June 2014, Dianne



Honduran nurses studied for four weeks at Aultman College of Nursing learning how they can develop standardized nursing care to Honduras.

Gibbs, an associate professor, and her colleague, Elise Mollohan, an assistant professor, traveled to Honduras with CAMO founder Kathy Tschiegg.

"It's one thing for people to tell you about what a corner of the world looks like, but another to see for yourself," said Gibbs. Both Gibbs and Mollohan agreed conditions in Honduras in some ways were worse than they expected.

"We call them 'she Florence Nightingales of Honduras," said Gibbs, who along with serving as associate professor is also Aultman School of Nursing's program director. "The fact they are willing to stick their necks out and learn something different, to me, that says a lot about these four women," she added.

Also on that visit to Honduras, the Aultman staff took advantage of the chance to get to know the Honduran nurses with whom they would be working. In a relatively short period of time, they were able to establish a positive rapport and a mutual trust. Then in July 2014, they traded places -- the 'The Florence Nightingales of Honduras' spent four weeks at Aultman College in Ohio. There, they covered elements in Basics of Nursing, Critical Care Basics, Procedures and Policies and Creating an Orientation Program.

This first phase of establishing a standards program for nursing care in Honduras is sponsored through



Dr. Michelle Flores and nurses Haide Hernandez and Leticia Sanchez Bardales practiced skills at Aultman College of Nursing.

"All we are learning is needed for patient care and can be applied to our reality. This is all very necessary." Honduran nurse Norma Puerta Pancheco

three organizations. Aultman College of Nursing contributed \$28,000. The Honduran Ministry of Health contributed \$12,000 and CAMO contributed \$6,000. These funds provided travel, nurse and staff salaries for four weeks and educational and training expenses. Such an international collaboration in and of itself is groundbreaking. The four

Honduran nurses spilled warm, loving energy on everyone they met, and they took their training very seriously.

"All we are learning is needed for patient care and can be applied to our reality," said Honduran nurse Norma Puerta Pancheco, midweek through her second week at Aultman. "This is all very necessary." Phase One of this program is just the beginning. Establishing cohesive nursing standards in Honduras has the potential to change how nursing care is delivered not only in Honduras, but in all developing countries. Please help CAMO in this international effort to establish standards where currently there are none.

Honduran Medical Brigade Formed

Volunteerism truly is contagious! During the annual meeting in April 2014, the medical professionals of Santa Rosa presented a question to CAMO: if the medical professionals volunteered their time, would Fundación CAMO-Honduras help to create and support a Honduras Medical Brigade? I remember smiling to myself. Our response was, "Absolutely yes! What a wonderful thing to see Honduran Medical Professionals reaching out to their own!" For this service, Fundación CAMO-

Honduras partnered with Fundación Amigos del Café, an organization which also provides aid to poor families in the area. In 2011, CAMO-Honduras had assisted with infrastructure and policy development for Amigos del Café. Together again, these two Honduran organizations collaborated their efforts to help the needy.

The Honduran doctors, dentists and nurses (calling themselves the "Honduras Medical Brigade") made the

2-hour trip on dusty, washed-out roads in a four-wheel drive to arrive at the community of Azacualpa in Erandique, Lempira. There, 203 children from rural schools were waiting for them. The Honduran Medical Brigade provided dental care, pediatric care and nebulization for respiratory disease. This community does not have easy access to care, so to make such an impact and to see the results and relief of dental and physical discomforts gave the volunteers great reward.

"Like" us on Facebook. Visit us at www.camo.org



Children receive fluoride treatments from a newly organized Honduran medical brigade.

Where Are They Now?

Look for a new feature in our newsletters! See how the impact of service has affected individuals over time.

Porfillio: CAMO's first prosthetic patient (1995)

SANTA ROSA de COPAN, Honduras – When Porfillio survived an electrical accident that left him with cataracts, severe facial scars and the loss of both of his lower legs, he might have wondered whether he was lucky. He could not see due to the cataracts, a result of the electrical shock. He had difficulty opening his mouth and chewing, a result of the facial scarring. And as a double amputee, he could no longer walk. He lost everything. He couldn't work, and his wife abandoned him.

Porfillio's help from CAMO came over a period of years. Because he had such difficulty chewing, he was severely malnourished. His first surgery in 1995 released the scar tissue on his face so he could open his mouth and chew. Then, his body needed time to recover before he could benefit from additional therapies. Cataract surgery came a few years later. The prostheses came when he had developed enough strength to tolerate the extensive therapy needed to learn to walk.

"We didn't have a prosthetic program at that time," CAMO founder Kathy Tschiegg recalled, noting she spent two days at a lab in Canton learning how to make reverse molds that were used to create prostheses for Porfillio. He worked hard at his physical therapy and he was able to walk within a month's time. Part of that therapy was learning to use public transportation. So with Nancy Hoge, his physical therapist who served with CAMO in Honduras for 18 months, together they boarded the "busito". When Nancy saw tears in Portfillio's eyes, she asked if he was in pain. "No," he responded, "I have only seen one block of



Portfillio supports himself by selling gum and candy outside the Santa Rosa bank. He became CAMO's first prosthetics patient after losing function in both his lower legs in an electrical accident.

my city from my knees for the past 10 years. I am so happy to see my city for the first time in so very long. These are tears of joy for me!"

Where is Porfillio now?

With so many serious health issues, in a community with so few medical resources, it is doubtful Porfillio would be alive today if not for CAMO. Today, Porfillio makes his living selling candy and gum outside the bank in Santa Rosa de Copan. He also continues to visit CAMO for prosthetic tweaks and maintenance. This is about relationships. Porfillio is an eating, seeing, walking, working testimony that CAMO's success is in the relationships we build with people and the impact we make over time. Doesn't sustainability start with the individual?

Donations, and Titus, help local community

Thank you to Titus Yoder, who helps CAMO distribute donated CPAP machines to those in the local community who need them. Continuous positive airway pressure therapy (CPAP) uses a machine to help a person who has obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) breathe more easily during sleep. CAMO receives many CPAP machines from medical companies and individuals. The machines, which can cost in excess of \$1,500, are not needed in Honduras. Titus collects the machines from CAMO's warehouse, makes sure they work well and then gets them to local people who need them through Wayne Health and the Startzman Clinic. The only cost to the person who gets the machine is tubing and a mask, Titus notes.

"This has had a tremendous impact on the care we are able to provide to our patients. We cannot thank our partners enough for this service," Startzman Clinic director Jaime Parsons said in an email to CAMO.



Titus Yoder serves the local community by redistributing CPAP machines donated to CAMO.

CAMO partners with local agencies

ORRVILLE – When Logistics Coordinator Brad Sinick received a shipment of sequential compression devices (SCDs) that couldn't be used in Honduras, a local home for them was found among the residents of Westview Healthy Living. CAMO is partnering with more local organizations to help supply local needy people with medical supplies, noted CAMO founder and executive director Kathy Tschiegg. Sinick agreed.

"We want people to know CAMO is more than an organization that gives medical supplies to people far away," he said. "We also help people in our local community who need supplies."

Shelby Alliance Church is another organization to partner with CAMO. In the past the church has donated supplies to CAMO. Today, the partnership is more of a two-way street, said Jason Nelson, senior pastor.

"We definitely enjoy the partnership," Nelson said, noting that by working together, both agencies are able to help more people.

"Stuff that we can't ship we give to you guys, and stuff you can't ship you give to us," he said.

CAMO is about relationships and it continues to work toward the good of the local and larger community. For more information on how CAMO might benefit you or your organization, please call our office at 330-683-5956.

Two year project comes to a close: Public Health Center to be inaugurated October 31st.

In 2002, the second busiest public health center in Honduras suffered major health issues of its own. Big slabs of concrete fell on the 11 small treatment areas. With no running water and no sewage system, the excrement of the day ran onto the ground and into the center of the city, putting 500 patients and 56 employees at risk every day. Then, city officials from Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras planned to host a visit with city officials from Wayne County, Ohio with the hope of discussing the potential for a "Sister City" program. On that visit in 2002, former Wooster mayor Jamie Howie, former Orrville mayor, Steve Steiner and McClintock Electric's owner Mike McClintock saw the harsh reality of the decaying public health center. The sight was so unbelievable they just shook their heads in disbelief. Mc-Clintock then investigated how much it would cost to rewire the public health center. He learned the estimated cost was \$120,000 with labor and materials. For CAMO at that time, it was just too much money to raise. As a result, the years passed and the public health center continued to decay.

Then in 2011, nearly a decade after that initial visit, CAMO chose to make the public health center a priority. We



View of the main entrance to Vicente Fernandez Mejia public health center before construction.



View of the main entrance during construction.





Before and after views of a hallway at the Vicente Fernandez Mejia Public Health Center.

couldn't ignore these pressing issues any longer. We started designating funds specifically for this as a remodeling project, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in October 2012. Two years later, what began as a remodeling project became a total demolition and rebuilding project – with good reason. It would be counterproductive to put a brand new roof on top of a structure which was foundationally unsound or to rewire the entire public health center within crumbling walls. Yet, the root of the problem is not often exposed until the digging begins. As a result of two years of hard labor and countless volunteer efforts, the new public health center will boast 37 different rooms and treatment areas as opposed to

11. We at CAMO would like to thank all of our donors in the USA and in Honduras. Special thanks to our major donors: the Noble Foundation, Charlie Wood, Banco de Occidente-Honduras, Bendifico Café and the Mining Company. These major donors made this project possible.

Time is ticking, however, and we still need of \$35,000 to complete the public health center by its inauguration date slated October 31, 2014. Please consider donating toward the completion of this very necessary facility which will serve thousands of people in western Honduras.

Time is ticking. We still need \$35,000 to complete the public health center by its inauguration date. Please consider donating toward this facility which will serve thousands of people in western Honduras.

Inside CAMO

Honduras Board names new Fundacion CAMO-Honduras director



Jose Bautista will join the staff in Honduras as assistant director for two years, then will move into the director position in 2016.

Newly appointed CAMO Honduras assistant director Jose Bautista

SANTA ROSA DE COPAN – The Board of Directors has named Jose Bautista to succeed Kathy Tschiegg as director of Fundacíon CAMO-Honduras by 2016. Jose has accepted this position and resigned his position as director of another organization. Jose will join the staff in Honduras as assis-

tant director for two years then will move into the director position in 2016. After serving on the board of Directors in Honduras for the last 5 years, Bautista has a very good understanding of our missions and vision as an organization. We look forward to all the expertise he will bring to CAMO.

CAMO-USA Board welcomes Sue Crawford

ORRVILLE -- Sue Crawford believes in the power of personal stories.

"I first traveled to Honduras in the 1990s and it was a life-changing experience. I was absolutely blown away by the conditions I saw there. There was so much to be done and resources were so limited," Crawford recalled. As newly-appointed marketing chair for CA-MO's board of directors, one of Crawford's top priorities is to more effectively share CAMO's stories with the greater community.



Sue Crawford

"While CAMO has accomplished amazing things in Honduras over the past 20 years, the needs are still great and the challenges daunting. That story needs to be told to help us attract volunteers and raise the funds we need to support our programs. Helping to tell that story is a personal priority for me," she said.

A Wooster native, Crawford brings to the board more than 25 years of professional experience in marketing and public relations for small business and non-profit organizations plus many years as a CAMO volunteer, including six trips to Honduras.

In her short time on the board, Crawford has already made progress toward her first goal. With CAMO founder Kathy Tschiegg, she has formed a community-based marketing committee to look at CAMO's marketing program and suggest ways it can be enhanced. Marketing committee members include Tom Brenner, Donnadale Davis, Mary McMillen, Shelly Rider, Steve Shapiro and Titus Yoder.

"These individuals will bring personal and professional marketing skills to the task, plus insight into how CAMO's marketing messages are being received. They will evaluate our marketing tools and outreach programs and make recommendations to the board and staff as to how the organization can tell its story most effectively," she said.

Crawford's longer-term goals include building on CA-MO's Strategic Plan to broaden and enhance its marketing efforts, raising CAMO's visibility, attracting new volunteers and solidifying financial support for CAMO's projects and services to assure sustainability in the US and Honduras.

"CAMO has accomplished amazing things in Honduras. The needs are still great, and the challenges daunting." Sue Crawford, CAMO marketing committee chair

Visit our web page, www.camo.org for more news about CAMO and to learn more about our board

CAMO scores "hole in fun" with 9th annual golf scramble

ORRVILLE – Support from longstanding donors and a long list of new ones spelled "success" for CAMO's 9th annual golf outing held June 21 at The Pines Golf Club. We salute our winning teams not just for playing well, but for donating their winnings back to CAMO.

The generosity of raffle prize and silent auction donors combined with the eighteen teams that played contributed to CAMO's net gain of \$10,500. Special thanks to our donors, sponsors, golfers, volunteers and especially The Pines for showing so much generosity with their time, talent and treasure. Please mark your calendar now for next year's outing on June 20, 2015!



First place team Wenger (from L-R) Howard Wenger, Jeff Wenger, H.J Wenger and Rockey Kovach. Team Wenger also won the Skins competition. 2nd place went to Team Zipporah, with Tony Bonfiglio, Glenn Bower, Mike Murray, and Zipporah Evania.

Come join our Community Yard Sale

ORRVILLE – For the first time, CAMO will participate in Orrville's Community Wide Yard Sale, and we'd love for you to join us!

CAMO's goal for the event is to raise awareness of CAMO – where we

are and what we do. We're inviting members of the public to come and tour our facility. We're inviting our supporters to come and sell any unwanted items. We welcome our supporters to donate their proceeds. It's a great chance to clear out the

basement and support CAMO at the same time. If it is more convenient, we can store yard sale items prior to the sale, which takes place October 4.

For more information, please call our office at 330-683-5956.

CAMO's goal for the event is to raise awareness of CAMO – where we are and what we do. We invite our supporters to come and sell any unwanted items.

Salsa Sizzle put the fun in fundraising!

WOOSTER - CAMO's 6th Annual Salsa Sizzle at the Wooster Inn on Aug. 9 drew more than 200 guests and raised more than \$25,000 for CAMO. Money raised supports the women's shelter in Santa Rosa. The shelter makes a life-saving difference as domestic violence is the No. 1 cause of death for women in Western Honduras. Women also gain job training so when they leave the shelter they alone can provide for their families. The shelter has served more than 500 women and children since the shelter opened. Special thanks to Salsa co-chairs Judy Seaman and Rachel Relle.



With 207 guests, Salsa Sizzle met its attendance and fundraising goals. The event raised \$26,874 that will go toward supporting the Women's Shelter in Santa Rosa.



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Upcoming Events

Sept. 6-11 Wayne County Fair

Oct. 4 Orrville community-wide garage sale

Oct. 25 Teams leave for Honduras

Oct. 31 Inauguration of Largest Public Health Center in Honduras

Jan. 15 CAMO presentation to Ashland Noon Lions

Give a Special Gift

Christmas Gift Cards are available for those of you who wish to give a donation to CAMO in the honor of a friend or loved one. Just call the CAMO office at 330-683-5956 and we will send you the number of cards that you need.

Bringing Hope to the Forgotten

- Learn the story behind the story... host a CAMO speaker! This is a great way for your small group or organization to hear the heart of the stories behind the CAMO reports and newsletters. Please don't hesitate to contact the CAMO office at 330-683-5956.
- Our only marketing tool is this newsletter. Your mailing information is never shared or sold to any other entity, and we only mail to our supporters. Please share the newsletter with those you think would like to help in CAMO's mission.
- For your tax records, we do one mailing at the year's end with your total amount given during the past year. These will be mailed out on January 10, 2015.
- To donate, go to our website, www.camo.org or make a check out to CAMO and mail to: 322 Westwood Avenue, Orrville, OH 44667.
- Thank you for your support. May God bless you today and always.



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