



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



Summer 2015 • Volume 23 • Issue 2 CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Bringing Hope to the Forgotten

New Brochure Enclosed

Because of CAMO, many lives have been saved and many communities have been repaired and restored, but there is still so much more to do. Underprivileged people continue to be treated with respect and dignity as they finally receive the care they so desperately have needed. Many poor people in Central America would not receive care if CAMO did not exist. But as you learn about CAMO, read these testimonies and share our victories, remember that CAMO's success is largely due to YOU – our donors.

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We as an organization will continue to work to do great things and strive to make an impact on people's lives. Whether this impact comes through diagnosing, treating or restoring health to a poor rural farmer or by providing healthy social activities for at-risk youth, CAMO will continue to be innovative and financially responsible. And we still need donors in order to continue our work.

Please consider reconnecting or making CAMO your charitable cause.

Enclosed in this newsletter is CAMO's new brochure which gives a general overview of who we are and what we do. Please contact us if you would like to share more brochures with your friends, family, social groups or church community. A CAMO representative is also available and willing to speak, and we appreciate the opportunity to share how one small organization can do so much with so little. On behalf of the lives of the people in need, CAMO thanks you for your continued support.



Community Development

People can theorize about how to help and what to do, *but faith without works is dead.*

The gym project in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras demonstrates the CAMO model; it is a picture of a community-defined need being met with CAMO's help.

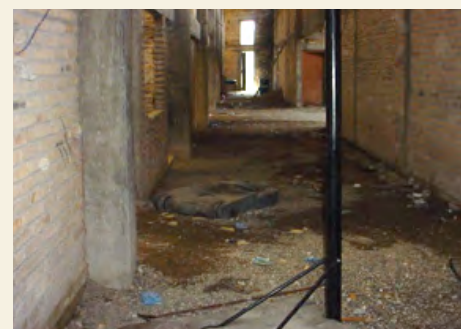
What a privilege to be involved on the journey restoring this gym and community center from a non-functional structural shell to an inclusive, safe, healthy environment! This facility serves both the poor and the rich as well as the young and the old. It hosts events for churches, social groups, political events and it serves as

the main site for elections and graduations for all area schools. It is a safe place for people to learn and be part of something good in the midst of a "not so safe" part of the world.

"What a privilege to be involved on the journey restoring this gym and community center from a non-functional structural shell to an inclusive, safe, healthy environment!"

With funding provided by Banco de Occidente, CAMO recently purchased a 40-passenger bus for the gym. Now, even the poorest schools and children can have transportation to their scheduled time slot in this facility.

Everyone who believes in CAMO's mission is part of making this community transformation possible. Help us continue to combat the war against the influence of drug by keeping children in a healthy environment and off the street.



Santa Rosa de Copán's gym before CAMO's involvement (2003) – an empty shell of a building with mud floors, leaking roof and no plumbing.



Visit CAMO's Facebook page for updates

BASKETBALLS, VOLLEYBALLS, SOCCER BALLS, TENNIS BALLS OR NETS FOR THESE SPORTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME DONATION ITEMS.

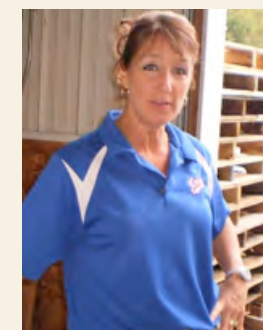


With CAMO's help, the Santa Rosa de Copán Gym and Community Center now brings mentoring programs and healthy living to people of all ages and all walks of life.



During the week of July 10th, 2015, CAMO hosted an event at the Santa Rosa de Copán gym called "Sports for ALL". Over 480 children between the ages of 8-15 years old participated in competitions of soccer, basketball,

volleyball, chess and mixed martial arts. In addition, over 1000 adults participated as well, including teachers, parents and others who came just to help or to learn from the activities.



Thanks to West Holmes High School and school athletic director LeeAnn Race, who in August 2014 gave CAMO several boxes of retired sports uniforms.



Because of donations like these, Honduran children can experience the joy of having fun and being a part of a team, a privilege Americans often take for granted.

MEDICAL SERVICES: Eyes! The Second Chapter



Starting in 1993 with a modest eye clinic, CAMO has since created a state-of-the-art eye surgery center in Honduras that treats over 450 patients a year.

When God closes a door, He always opens a window.

American ophthalmologist Dr. John Thomas and Judy Thomas have traveled with CAMO for over 20 years and have been the epitome of the CAMO counterpart model. Being a counterpart means just that – being an international part, or “partner,” with someone in the same field. The relationship is one of teaching, learning, communicating and growing.

For over two decades, the Thomases have embraced Honduran ophthalmologist Dr. Hector Robles and his family.

They even hosted young Marco Robles in their home during his high school years. Today, Marco is part of his father’s ophthalmology practice in Honduras. Younger brother Pablo also has hopes to join the practice soon, as well. Dr. Thomas has been an inspiration to this family, and after 20 years of volunteer service with CAMO under his belt, he felt it was time to pass the work on to someone else.

This past February, for the first time in 20 years, CAMO

did not have an eye team to take to Honduras. In truth, we pondered how much further we could develop the service area of ophthalmology without an American counterpart.

When God closes a door, He always opens a window. This window was opened with Indianapolis ophthalmologist Dr. Kevin Waltz, who brings 18 years of charitable work and 4 years of experience in research in Central America. Dr. Waltz is the perfect counterpart to take CAMO into the future, and he already

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is starting by assisting with staff development and training of his new counterparts. In support of CAMO’s concept of the counterpart model, Dr. Waltz will be instrumental in the development of Drs. Marco and Pablo Robles in a variety of areas within the ophthalmology field.

What does this mean to the million people residing in the Western region of Honduras? An American counterpart ensures that the Honduran people will have access to better care, including modern techniques, vision correction, prevention and treatment of blindness.

CAMO is in the process of shipping a complete modern ophthalmology surgical suite with one high-tech surgical eye microscope, three Phacoemulsification machines (phaco machines) and enough equipment and supplies to do



600 surgeries. Dr. Robles, Dr. Waltz and all the staff at CAMO are very excited about the future of eye care for the poor people living in Honduras. This new counterpart relationship also has the potential to bring CAMO into a partnership with a prominent international ophthalmology society. Such a partnership would

further support and provide sustainability toward CAMO’s efforts in Central America. Please remember Dr. Waltz and his associate, John Delgado on September 27, 2015 as they travel to Santa Rosa to launch the next chapter in eye care to Honduras.



Above, American ophthalmologist Dr. John Thomas examines a patient in Honduras.

At left, Dr. Marco Robles (son of Honduran ophthalmology counterpart Dr. Hector Robles) examines the same patient.

Counterpart relationships are professional and personal bonds that promote sustainability and last long after CAMO volunteer teams come and go.

Education/Training

CAMO volunteer teams will be traveling to Honduras again this coming October to work with Honduran counterparts in a variety of fields.



THE AREAS OF FOCUS IN EDUCATION, TRAINING & SERVICES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- ✓ Development of Fair Trade Products
- ✓ EKG Interpretation
- ✓ Graphic Design
- ✓ Bereavement
- ✓ NALS
- ✓ Neurosurgery
- ✓ Wound & Colostomy Care
- ✓ Biomedical Repair of Ultrasound Machines
- ✓ Respiratory Training of Medical Staff
- ✓ Women's Leadership (course)
- ✓ Fundamental Critical Care Support (FCSS)

This course will be given in November 2015. For the first time in Honduras, in partnership with the Society of Critical Care Medicine, 20 participants including general practitioners and doctors in Internal Medicine will receive this course. Emergency facilities to licensed nurses will take advantage of the course, as well. The purpose of the course is to prepare non-intensive care physicians and nurses in the initial management of critically ill patients beginning with their first contact and continuing until they can be transferred to the appropriate facility or unit.



VISIT **CAMO.ORG** TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CAMO'S PROGRAMS.

Be Inspired to Make a Difference!

CAMO believes in treating people with dignity and respect regardless of their socio-economic class or status. Countless lives in Honduras are saved every day because of the contributions of people right here in our community, people who give of themselves because they believe in a worthy cause.

ONE WAY TO GET INVOLVED IS TO HELP WITH A CAMO FUNDRAISER.

On Saturday, June 22, 2015, CAMO held its **10th Annual Golf Scramble at the Pines Golf Course**. The event hosted 86 golfers and raised approximately \$10,000.

Then on Saturday August 22nd, CAMO held its **7th Annual Salsa Sizzle** fundraiser at the Wooster Inn. The night was filled with live Latin Jazz music, delicious Latin-inspired food, a celebrity bartending competition and both a live and silent auction. Nearly 200 people attended and the event raised approximately \$32,000. All proceeds benefit the Domestic Violence Shelter for women and children in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras.

One day later, on Sunday August 23rd, CAMO supporters held the **"Pittsburgh Cruise for a Cause"** fundraiser. On that day, 50 people basked in the sunshine while aboard *The Fantasy*, a Pittsburgh Luxury Cruise, to help provide funding for support of Honduran newborns in need of ventilators. The afternoon included dinner from Pittsburgh's modern European bistro Sausalido, live jazz entertainment, dancing, a full

bar and a viewing of the Steelers pre-season game from the water.

It takes a willingness to fight for what is right and a commitment to the cause to see real change. The "Cruise for a Cause" fundraiser allowed CAMO to raise enough money to purchase 300 tests (\$10 a test) for the ISTAT blood gas analyzer, which will save babies' lives. Funds raised from the Salsa Sizzle will help 22 more Honduran women and their children recover in a safe, supportive environment as they escape continued abuse or even death. And the proceeds from the Golf Scramble help CAMO do what CAMO does best – redistribute and ship donated supplies to people who need them most.

As a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, CAMO depends on the generosity of donors to meet its goals. On behalf of the people CAMO serves, we want to say THANK YOU to everyone who gave of themselves to help or donate.

Thank you to the Wooster Inn, all the Salsa Sizzle table sponsors, the donors of live and silent auction items and the Salsa Sizzle committee. Thank you to all of the golf hole sponsors, food sponsors, volunteers and the donors of raffle and silent auction items for the Golf Scramble. Thank you to Susan Shetter for her dedication and all of her hard work putting on the Cruise for a Cause event and also to Tim Larson. And thank you to all the friends and family of CAMO for your willingness to fight for people who cannot fight for themselves.

CAMO would not be CAMO without you. Thank you.



Above: The 7th Annual Salsa Sizzle. Nearly 200 people attended and the event raised approximately \$32,000.



Pittsburgh Cruise for a Cause

Future of Our World

Miriam was a teenager who served as a bilingual interpreter for CAMO surgical teams. Her experience showed her how she could make a significant difference in her country, and she knew she wanted to continue making a difference. So she expressed her desire to become a doctor. She became friends with Jorge Romero, CAMO's American OB/GYN counterpart, who helped her continue to learn and grow. Miriam went on to achieve her dream and became a doctor. Recently, she delivered her first baby!

"I cannot describe the joy and nerves of attending my first birth," she wrote. "I was expecting it like it was my own. Thank you, CAMO."

This testimony is a perfect representation of CAMO's goal for sustainability in Central America. Many medical relief organizations bring help, but CAMO works to help the people learn to help themselves. Real sustainability is achieved through long-term attention and follow-through. It is achieved through positive influence and education. And when the student becomes the teacher, the cycle of positive influence and education repeats to the next generation.

Health standards in the United States require medical staff to maintain licenses and keep current through continuing education. Until 2014 through CAMO, Honduras had no such standards for medical professionals. Since 1993, the presence

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT USING YOUR NATURAL ABILITY TO VOLUNTEER, VISIT **CAMO.ORG** OR CALL THE CAMO OFFICE AT **330-683-5956**.

of CAMO volunteer teams both in February and October of each year brought to Honduras glimpses of best practices and current trends in the medical field. Today, with the approval of the Honduras Ministry of Health, CAMO has initiated a nationwide Nurses Continuing Education Program to assist in standardizing the quality of nursing care.

In fact, many students from Tegucigalpa, a nearby major city, often travel to the tiny town of Santa Rosa for professional training because of the quality of the education.

"[CAMO's trainings] are better than what we get there [in Tegucigalpa]. I hope someday to practice...in Santa Rosa because the equipment



Miriam started as a bilingual interpreter for CAMO teams and then took advantage of the professional education opportunities available through CAMO programming. Today, Miriam's teenage dream of becoming a doctor is a reality. "I cannot describe the joy and nerves of attending my first birth," she wrote. "I was expecting it like it was my own. Thank you, CAMO."

Influencing young people to do better and to be better is how we can change the world.

and the tools are so much better than anywhere else in my country," a medical student named Osman told CAMO staff. "Thank you very much for what you and CAMO are doing for my people and my country. It gives me a sense of obligation to see that my generation takes up the challenge, to demand more of ourselves and our government, to make medical care in my country the best it can be. Muchas gracias."

Osman's words reflect the next generation of Honduran doctors, the ones who will not accept the conditions of the past.

If we do nothing more than influence future youth to become caring, socially responsible adults, we have accomplished a great deal. Standing in the promise of youth is the future of medical care for the poorest citizens of Honduras. Through them, CAMO's work will continue for years to come.

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Visit CAMO's Facebook page for updates



CAMO provides continuing education and training to Honduran medical students and professionals.

Above: American OB/GYN counterpart Jorge Romero provides Ultrasound training in Honduras.

Below: Honduran nurses Haide Hernandez and Kenia Calderon receive training in Fetal Monitoring from USA nurse Heidi Unziker.



Volunteers: The Heart of CAMO

CAMO began with two things: a duffel bag of donated sheets and the heart of one person to take them to people in dire need.

Today, CAMO operates on a much larger scale, but the motivation and the heart remain the same: people donate and other people help move those donations by using the God-given gifts they themselves have been given. That's where YOU come in.

Between May and August 2015, CAMO has been blessed beyond measure with in-kind donations and a new community of helpful volunteers to receive, sort and move them. Dennis Horst of the Das Dutch Kitchen volunteered to re-side the exterior of the Orrville, OH rear warehouse (which desperately needed repair). Duane Byler of Byler Siding and Windows LTD, volunteered not only to help re-side but also arranged for materials to be donated for those repairs.

“On behalf of the people we serve, thank you. Thank you, volunteers. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you.”

Biomedical Engineer Dan Gerber volunteered to help with inventory since the retirement of long-time CAMO veteran volunteer Alan Dicks. Then, in July 2015, Gerber brought along Kyle Rohrig and Phaethon Kotantoulas – also biomedical engineers – to volunteer as well.

Volunteers were right there when a much-appreciated and much-needed in-kind donation of hats, teddy bears and clothing arrived from the Augusta National Golf Club (home of the prestigious Masters® Golf Tournament). The large donation was valued at \$53,546 and needed over 2 skids to contain its contents, which included 7,203 pieces of new children's clothing. A host of willing



volunteers was ready to sort, data-enter, label, box and prepare these items to be shipped.

Each week volunteers arrive at the CAMO warehouse to sort and fold donated “laundry” (the term CAMO often uses for scrubs, sheets and linens). This takes time and care, but it's something that can be done by almost anyone. Each day, someone arrives to answer the phones. This takes a friendly voice and some consistency, but it is not a difficult task. Regularly, large container trucks are loaded with boxes of donated items to be shipped to Honduras. This takes strong arms, strong backs and a few hours of time, but many people enjoy physical activity. Whatever you do naturally can be used to help CAMO help others. CAMO needs you!

On behalf of the people we serve, THANK YOU. Thank you, volunteers. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without YOU. To learn more about using your natural ability to volunteer, visit camo.org or call the CAMO office at 330-683-5956.

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF CAMO. EVERY DAY, VOLUNTEERS JUST LIKE YOU GENEROUSLY USE THEIR GIFTS TO HELP CAMO SERVE AND MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POOR POPULATION IN HONDURAS.



Phaethon Kotantoulas (left) and Dan Gerber (right) fixing gauges to oxygen tanks.





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Upcoming Events

- September 11-17** CAMO Booth at Wayne County Fair
- September 27** New Eye Program Launched
- October 18** 10 specialty teams travel to Honduras to work with counterparts
- November** Fundamental Critical Care Support Course
- November 1** Shipment to Honduras

Visit our website www.camo.org or call our office 330-683-5956 for more information.



Go Green!

Donate your old cell phones and empty ink/toner cartridges to CAMO. Please call the office for more information.

330.683.5956 • 330.313.1000



Visit CAMO's
Facebook page
for updates



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

Please contact us if you would like a CAMO representative to speak at your event, service group or church service. We will be glad to assist you. Donations can be made online for your convenience. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated!

When you are done with this issue, please pass it along to someone you know who may be interested in our mission.

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