



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



Summer 2016 • Volume 25 • Issue 2 CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Bringing Hope to the Forgotten

Kathy Tschiegg's Role Expanded to International Director

NEW CAMO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS APPOINTED TO USA AND HONDURAS.

Opportunities Explode In Honduras!

CAMO's Spring 2016 newsletter highlighted how the future of CAMO opened up in just a few days' time. In February, the Honduran government contacted CAMO-Honduras about taking over the management of Hospital Regional de Occidente, the third largest hospital in the country. After finishing diagnostics of the hospital, CAMO will negotiate the terms. If the terms are such that CAMO will have the budget necessary for improvement of care and will be granted total control of human resources, it is probable that CAMO will become the foundation which will manage all aspects of the hospital.

At the very same time, 5 acres of land and an incomplete building was handed to CAMO-Honduras to house the Academy of Higher Learning with the condition that CAMO would finish the structure and help to improve the trade school. A generous donor contributed \$250K and then asked CAMO to match that amount by the end of 2016. CAMO is asking for faithful supporters to commit to match the \$250K to finish the trade school, fully develop credentialed courses and fully staff both facilities.

With such rapid and extensive development, it has become impossible for CAMO Founder Kathy Tschiegg to direct and oversee both CAMO-Honduras and CAMO-USA. Since Kathy is required to travel frequently back and forth overseas, CAMO has expanded her role to International Director. Although Kathy remains integrated in both organizations, her expanded responsibilities involve more in the international development role. **Jose Bautista** has been appointed as the Executive Director of CAMO-Honduras and **Helene Moncman** has been appointed as the Executive Director of CAMO-USA. Please welcome them in their new positions. They both share Kathy's compassion to serve.



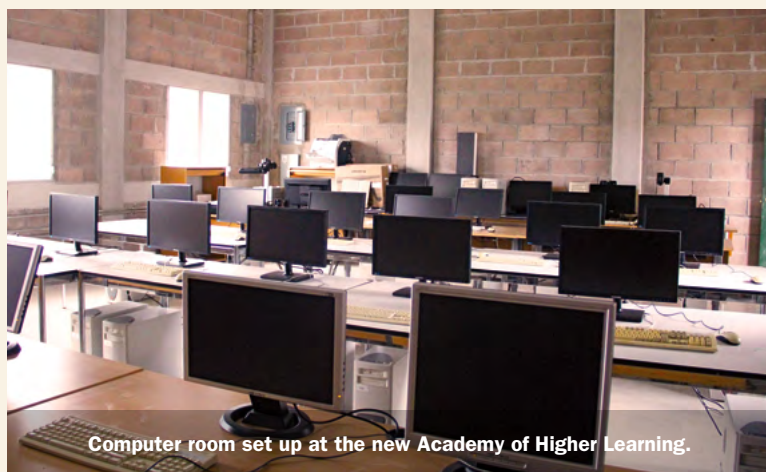
Helene Moncman, new Executive Director of CAMO-USA.



Jose Bautista, new Executive Director of CAMO-Honduras.



Front entrance view of the new Academy of Higher Learning.



Computer room set up at the new Academy of Higher Learning.

Nixon's Story: Hunger & The Mango Tree

Nixon's Tragic Accident Affected His Entire Family.

Twenty-one-year-old Nixon is the second eldest of eight sons, ages 4 to 24. With his new 19-year-old wife and his parents, Nixon and his family work together to provide for eleven individuals. Working the rented land for income earns them a grand total of 50 lempira/day, which is little more than \$2USD.

Then, the unthinkable happened – in one split second, Nixon became a paraplegic. He had climbed a mango tree to gather fruit for his hungry family, placed his weight on a rotted limb and crashed to the ground.

For three days, he endured horrific pain as he struggled to make the two hour walk to the nearest town where a vehicle would be available. His family was able to convince people at the mayor's office, which had the only car, to come out and help him get to the hospital. There, neurosurgeon Dr. Roberto Alvarez noticed Nixon still had some feeling in his legs, but there was no movement.

Alvarez shared his concern on his

last visit to CAMO-USA. He believed he could improve Nixon's life if he could only get the required screws. In Honduras, the screws cost \$235 apiece and Nixon would need 8 screws. This was impossible for Nixon and his family. So, Dr. Alvarez spoke to his counterpart neurosurgeon, Dr. J.C. Tabet of Aultman Hospital about the case. On May 20, the night before the CAMO-Honduras board members flew home, he was handed the 8 screws obtained from Dr. J.C. Tabet's office in Canton, Ohio.

Eight days later, Founder and International Director, Kathy Tschiegg received a seemingly impossible photo and video message from Dr. Roberto Alvarez: a photo of the screws placed in Nixon's spine and a video of Nixon getting out of the hospital bed bearing weight and walking. What a life-changing miracle!

Then on June 20, Dr. Alvarez came to Kathy's Honduras office with his patient, Nixon, walking behind him. Kathy was filled with joy as she watched a former paraplegic walk. With a twinkle in his eye, Dr. Alvarez presented Nixon to the CAMO staff and Kathy invited him for coffee.

She listened to his story, his family's struggle to survive, and his gratitude for Dr. Roberto Alvarez. Before their visit ended, she looked Nixon in the eye and



Nixon with his x-rays, including plates and the 8 life-changing screws.

asked, "If you could do anything with your life now that you can walk again, what would you want to do?" He grinned and answered, "I would like to be a doctor!"

Thankfully, Nixon's dream is within reach as soon as the Academy of Higher Learning is completed. There at the Academy, more Hondurans will have the opportunity to learn skills resulting in more miracles – the lame walking, the blind seeing and the deaf hearing. But it starts with you. Today is the day for someone else's miracle. Please put your faith into action and give someone a miracle.

*"If you could do anything with your life now that you can walk again, what would you want to do?"
He grinned and answered, "I would like to be a doctor!"*

Left: Nixon (3 weeks after surgery) visiting with Founder, Kathy Tschiegg.

Right: Nixon walking with Dr. Roberto Alvarez.



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for someone
else's miracle.
Please put your
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and give someone
a miracle.

Falling Wall, Uplifting People

Juana Maria is a single mother of three children. She is *determined* to provide for her two sons (ages 6 and 12) and her 16-year-old daughter, who has a physical condition which requires many supplies.

To make a living, Juana developed a humble catering business. She makes baked goods, places them in a basket on her head, and delivers her goods to several companies - including the staff of the CAMO headquarters in Santa Rosa.

Recently, Juana was walking down a street when a retaining wall collapsed and crushed both of her legs. She was taken to the hospital for help, but not being able to afford the required screws and plates, she laid there for one month. The orthopedic surgeons in that particular region privatized the distribution of the plates and screws and will only do surgery on those patients who can buy the products from their business.

Because Juana couldn't afford the surgery, her sixth grade son quit school and began to beg on the street with his 6-year-old brother. It was the only way to provide food for his sister and mother. Every day with empty tummies, the two brothers would take food to their mother's hospital bedside.

Eventually Juana was released from the hospital with no care provided. She crawled to the street to help her sons beg since she could no longer run her business with two broken legs. When Juana's son came into the CAMO office to ask for help, the staff members were alarmed. The staff immediately started raising funds to help pay the orthopedic doctor for the screws

which were available only through his private business.

On Kathy's visit to Honduras in June 2016, she found out which doctor was responsible for this lack of care. Coincidentally, the doctor walked right past Kathy at the hospital. He stopped and greeted her with casual conversation and a kiss on the cheek. As he sang praises of what CAMO was doing, Kathy saw her opportunity to speak up. Looking into his eyes, she asked a simple question, "Will you help me with a very special case?" He promised his support.

Two days later, Kathy called the doctor and said, "You know the promise you made? My staff is on their way to your office with the patient. I know you are a man of your word and I trust you will make sure she can walk again."

He hesitated and asked to wait until next week, to which Kathy responded, "Of course, what day?" The appointment was set for the following Thursday with the understanding that CAMO staff would be closely following the case and reporting progress daily. Kathy's final words to him were: "I trust there will be no delays."

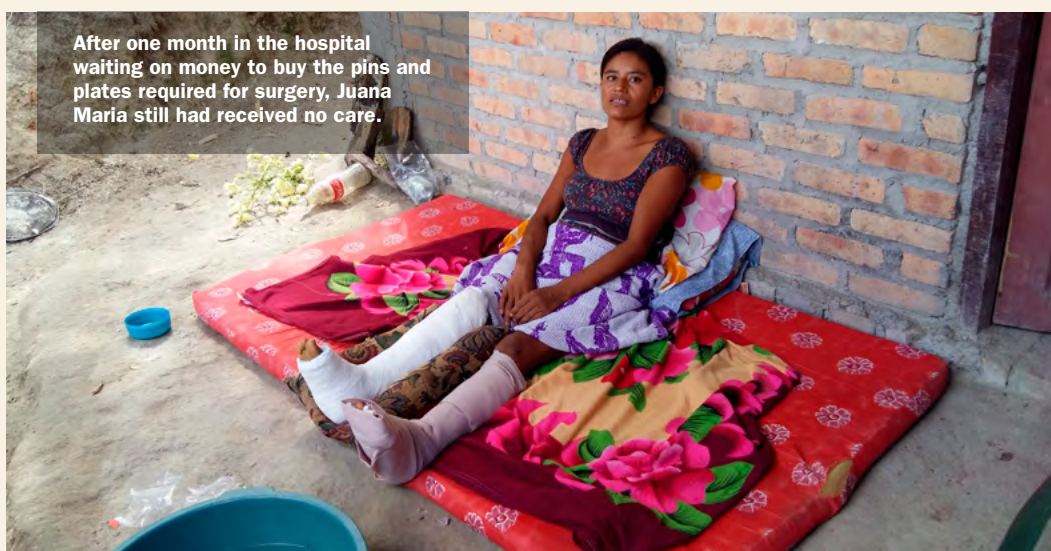
The CAMO staff helped Juana Maria get to the hospital and stayed by her, helping to make sure her family's needs were met. She had the surgeries the first week of July and since then, she has started to bear weight. Her children are back in school.

CAMO will continue to help this family until Juana is working again. The money collected is going toward food and housing until she is back to work.

It is unclear whether the doctor's compliance was because he finally decided to be a humanitarian or because he wanted to make a good impression on Kathy (after all, the decentralization of the hospital into the management of CAMO would mean that CAMO would become his boss). Whatever motivated his change of heart, corruption still was the root of Juana's initial lack of care. Corruption has been crushing the care and the spirits of poor Honduran people like the wall that crushed Juana's legs. Decentralization of Hospital de Occidente will not only take wisdom and knowledge in hospital administration, but the courage to stand up to such corruption.

Ironically, Hospital de Occidente is the same hospital where Kathy Tschiegg spent her Peace Corps experience between 1979 and 1981. And it is the same hospital where in July of 1981, Kathy held in her arms a total of 31 babies as they died, one by one. The injustice behind those 31 babies' deaths, however, is largely what motivated Kathy to start CAMO in the first place.

Please pray for wisdom and courage as CAMO-Honduras works to respond to this great opportunity and break down the walls of corruption.



Collaboration Makes CAMO Literacy Program Possible!

In its meager beginnings, CAMO's Literacy Program was nothing more than a volunteer reading Spanish books to Honduran children and presenting a Spanish book to each child after receiving a dental exam and cleaning. Today, CAMO is collaborating with Third World Books, Inc. (TWB) and the Global Mission Action Group (GMAG) of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights to provide school libraries for 10 rural schools in Honduras. These libraries are served by the CAMO Dental Program and CAMO Daycare. The program is possible through involvement and support of three collaborators and two grants from the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. The Literacy Program is flourishing and is an effective start to address the compelling literacy needs in impoverished rural Honduras. Students enthusiastically use every book, as the demand for children's Spanish-language books is great.

Now, expansion of this program is needed and envisioned! Honduran schools are sharing books with as many as five other schools, and the books are showing signs of use. This summer, members of Third World Books and Global Mission Action Group are "tape reinforcing" the newly purchased books prior to shipment.

Training sessions for Honduran teacher partners to repair and reinforce books are planned for March when two volunteer members of the committees (who are also on CAMO's dental team) will be in Honduras. This partnership has actively involved volunteers in Ohio who are contributing and partnering alongside CAMO with Honduran teachers and administrators in meaningful mission. Prayerfully, other churches and organizations will follow the lead of these pioneer collaborators to make a positive impact where the needs are great.



CAMO's literacy program enables children in 10 rural schools to have books and learn to read.



At St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Cleveland Heights, volunteers "tape reinforced" 525 new books for school libraries in Honduras. Volunteers included members of the CAMO Literacy Committee, members of St. Paul's Global Mission Action Group & board members of Third World Books. Third World Books also will provide kits for the March 2017 workshops with tape, scissors & a pen to keep the tape from sticking to itself.

Joint Board Meeting to Plan CAMO's Future Held in May

CAMO-USA and CAMO-Honduras held their 5-year strategic planning session with full Executive Boards from both countries in attendance. This is the fifth time the five-year planning session has been held. The plan sets the stage for 2016 – 2021. Special thanks to the Alice Noble Ice Arena staff, the Noble Foundation for the donation of the use of the facility conference room and Mike Pallotta and Pallotta Ford for loaning CAMO a 12-passenger transit van for the event. Many thanks to those who provided housing for the Honduras board to assist and keep the cost down. Those who offered their home were: Titus Yoder, Shelly Brenner, Colleen Teague, Mary Tschiegg and Kathy Tschiegg.

Thank you to the CAMO-USA board for taking time out of their busy schedules and time off work to participate for the two-day session. A special thanks to Lynette and Charlie Wood for the dinner for the Honduras board on their last night in the USA.



CAMO-USA and CAMO-Honduras Boards 2016

Youth from Salem Mennonite Church in Ohio form a human tug of war with Honduran daycare children.



Youth counterparts working together, an authentic example of the CAMO counterpart model in action.



Spencer from Salem Mennonite Church playing with the children.

Salem Mennonite Youth Partner with Honduras Youth

Monday June 20, 2016 marked the first day of a very special experience for local Ohio youth.

Following Central American Medical Outreach tradition, teens from Salem Mennonite Church worked with teens from Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras, forming a counterpart relationship as together they painted walls and fixed windows at the local daycare center. Of course, the day was not all work, and the teens enjoyed a few play breaks in between jobs.

The next day, the Salem Mennonite youth and their 9 Honduran counterparts continued work at the daycare. By replacing screens and washing windows and rooms, these teens helped create a clean and mosquito-free environment for children at the daycare.

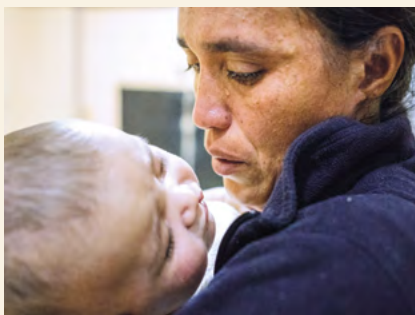


Youth from Salem Mennonite Church with Honduran counterpart youth close out their life-changing week in front of the completed mural at the daycare.

Where Are They Now?

FROM TEARS TO JOY

Children like little Irbin are the reason CAMO exists: to give hope & restore smiles.



Irbin was one of 33 patients seen in the February 2016 plastic surgery brigade where Dr. Linda Camp and her team performed surgery to repair his cleft lip and cleft palate. Today, Irbin's recovery and steady growth are evident. This baby who has stolen everyone's heart will grow healthy and strong. Five years from now, he will not remember having a cleft lip and cleft palate. He certainly will not remember having the surgery to correct those malformations. But his life has been changed forever all thanks to you, CAMO supporters. Irbin's loving mother, Carla, is so happy and grateful to CAMO.

Above Left:
Irbin and his anxious mother
pre-op in February 2016.

Above Right:
Irbin with his mother, post-op.

CAMO-USA VOLUNTEER

After people are no longer with us, we realize all the little things they did.

Ralph Winey passed away on April 10, 2016. He did all those little things: sweeping the floor, emptying trash and packing small equipment to prepare for shipment.

He began volunteering at the CAMO-USA office in Orrville in 2001. He would ride with the truck and load donations to take to the warehouse for shipping. As he aged, he would stay at the warehouse and help keep the facility clean.

His wife, Doris, also helped at CAMO through the years, assisting with preparing newsletter mailings. She died 16 days after her beloved Ralph passed. They are together again, on the other side of life. They are missed by all.



In memory of Ralph Winey.

Volunteer Spokesperson

If you wish to have a volunteer spokesperson come to your church or organization to tell the story of CAMO, please call the office at 330-683-5956 or our volunteer spokesperson and board member, Lynette Wood at 614-596-4238. Or email Lynette at lynetteshowsup@aol.com.

Reflections From a Honduran Medical Student Who Became an Inspired Volunteer with CAMO's CPR Programs

I remember it was 2013 when I was first asked to help a medical brigade with the CAMO Neurosurgery team, which included Dr. J.C. Tabet, Dr. Roberto Alvarez and Mary. It was my first opportunity to be with a U.S. MD, an experience that changed my medical career when I was just a student. The passion and effort I felt with this team will forever be in my heart. I specifically remember Mary. Every 15-30 minutes, she spoke to the family members of the patient, telling them everything that was happening in the OR [operating room]. Since that day, I realized I wanted to continue my medical residency in the United States and I decided to join the organization CAMO.



Dr. Montalvan, volunteer instructor for basic CPR courses in Honduras.

Later on, I spent a whole week with Tim Larson and the respiratory team. He is the most passionate, kind and patient person I have ever met. He explained mechanical ventilation to our hospital personnel, moving from the NICU to internal medicine, drawing blood for ABG's [arterial blood gas tests] and teaching everybody how to interpret the results. It's important to mention Dr. Antonio Lazcano's guidance in triage management at the ER, coaching all the hospital personnel year after year, always with the same enthusiasm. These are only [a few] examples of the dedication, spirit, warmth and empathy of [CAMO]. Thank you very much, for all this enlightenment which [has] made me a passionate doctor who, in return, will bring hope to my patients.

Thank you, CAMO.

Sincerely,

Eleazar Montalvan (A.K.A. Monty)

CAMO EVENTS

CAMO's 11th Annual Golf Scramble was held on June 25th at the Pines Golf Club in Orrville, Ohio and raised over \$8,500.

Eighteen teams of four golfers spent the day partaking in 18 holes of golf as well as playing a variety of skill-based games throughout the course.

First-place winners were the **Wenger Excavating Team**, consisting of Jeff Wenger, H.J. Wenger, Raymond Miller, and John Kabasky.

Second place went to the **Miller Team** of Aaron Miller, Mark Miller, Ben Miller, and Matt Coblenz. Jeff Wenger also won the Putting Contest.

Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the green as they helped raise money for CAMO's many impactful programs and services in Honduras.



DON'T MISS THE SIZZLE!

CAMO's next fundraising event will be the 8th Annual Salsa Sizzle on August 20, 2017 at 6pm at the Wooster Inn.

Be sure to join CAMO for a night of dancing, food, and fun. Enjoy Latin-inspired food prepared by the exceptional chefs of the Wooster Inn as a live Latin Jazz band serenades the crowd. Live and silent auction items will be available for bidding in addition to a spirited celebrity bartender competition. Of course, the evening would not be complete without a turn on the floor with a partner as a Salsa dance instructor guides couples of all skill ranges through this beautiful dance. Dinner tickets are \$40 per guest, with the option of "dance only" tickets at \$10 after 9pm.

For more information, contact the CAMO office at (330) 683-5956 or visit www.camo.org.



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Upcoming Events

Salsa Sizzle August 20th

Wayne County Fair September 10 - 15

October Teams October 15 - 22



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

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

Ways You Can Help:

- Volunteer on-site or off-site (call and ask CAMO how!)
- Plan for CAMO as part of your legacy
- Use CAMO for a business tax deduction
- Give IMPACT for Christmas and birthday gifts! Reduce your household "stuff" and increase impact! (see camo.org for a list of in-kind donation items CAMO will accept)



Like "Central American Medical Outreach"
on Facebook and SHARE with your friends!



Follow CAMO
on Twitter!

*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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