



# CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



Winter 2017 • Volume 26 • Issue 3

CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Bringing Hope to the Forgotten

## With Gratitude: Hope for a Brighter Future!

### The Voice of Hector

“I remember, just waiting at home for my mother or family to care for me helping me get ready, shower, move me from my bed, or just sit me on the floor. This seemed to be my destiny until that day when my mother first heard about CAMO’s wheelchair program. I was seven years old when CAMO first gave me a wheelchair, my mother was happy because as a single mother of four children she could not devote all her time to me. This wheelchair allowed me to move on my own, and go to high school. I was able to graduate from high school and work.

As I grew, CAMO provided me with many wheelchairs, and the times when something broke, the staff would repair it for me. My mobility has helped me to work towards my dream. I am 26 years now, and I am currently studying Business Administration at the Public University of Santa Rosa de Copán, where I live. Someday I will be managing my own business.”

Since inception of the wheelchair program we have provided 6,820 patients mobility devices. The joy in hearing his story and seeing his smile is the greatest gift one could receive. This is just one of 18 programs. Join us in this incredible journey of changing lives one at a time.

### Wearing Shoes!

Rosa Lia, disheartened by the condition of her two sons in 2006 and 2007 sought help. Yixon, 12 years old, and his brother Geyner, 8 years old, were born with club feet, not allowing them to wear shoes or work on the modest farm with their father. Dr. Dona Alvarez, our CAMO counterpart in orthopedic surgery from Oakland Maryland, performed corrective surgery to straighten their club feet.

Recently, Rosa Lia came to our office in Honduras and was indescribably grateful for the surgical procedures provided by CAMO and proud of her two boys. Now 11 years later, their mother wanted us to see these photos of her sons. Yixon resides in the US. Geyner, his younger brother, finished high school through a special program providing high school-level courses to rural communities.

“CAMO helped us so much because my children could not wear shoes before, but now, they don’t have any problems. We were blessed by this medical brigade.” She added, “CAMO has changed our lives forever.”

These are just two stories of thousands. Thank you for 25 years of support which has made possible life-changing services to so many people.

**“CAMO has changed our lives forever.”**

### FOUNDER’S NOTE

Kathy Tschiegg

Gratitude to all of you who make these services and miracles possible, I am humbled by the kind hearts which support us. These are patients who came back just to say thank you this month. *It is the joy of service.*



Hector visited the Fundación CAMO Honduras last week to say thank you.



Geyner on graduation day and Yixon in the USA. Their mother proudly shared these photos with us.

Volunteers Supporting the Mission This Year

416 

Every Dollar Donated Was Turned Into

\$2.83 by in-kind donations and donated professional services

  
139,841  
PATIENTS SERVED

  
7,347  
BOXES OF MATERIALS DONATED

3,498  
PEOPLE EDUCATED

  
550  
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT COMPONENTS DONATED

**IMPACTING** 67 institutions in 15 departments (states) of Honduras

COMMUNITY SERVICES

# Lives Changed, One Class At A Time



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Just 8 short months ago, the media, mayors, donors and individuals from the community gathered in a grassy spot behind the Trade School where they laid a strong foundation for future generations of students.



The 18 students in Albertina Hernandez's baking class huddle into a hallway-like space with desks, food preparation tables, an oven and stove!

The Trade School provides youth opportunities to be trained in professions that meet the needs and demands of the labor market. Last year, 973 teenagers and young adults completed programs in one of sixteen modules. Examples of the modules include welding, carpentry, computer lab, culinary, baristas and tourism. Three months after graduation, 59% of those attending 12-month courses had obtained employment. Putting this in perspective, 62% of the Honduran population is either unemployed or under-employed. The need to expand the facility is vital - it is over-crowded, the hallways are used as classrooms, and equipment must be moved to the perimeter to allow for written tests. It is the only facility in the area for young adults to learn a trade.



West side of the Trade School construction.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Wood Family Foundation and partners with CAMO Honduras, we have raised 32% of the funding for the expansion which will be accomplished in three phases. The first phase is well underway with the construction of the new wings of the first floor moving rapidly. Phase two of the project will include dormitories which are crucial for potential students who are now unable to attend due to distance. Phase three will remodel the existing old building to include an area to sell products produced by the students. In the next two years we will be working to raise the \$400,000 needed to complete the project. Your donations will help us make this possible.



South side of the Trade School construction.

*Please join us as we strive for completion of this project in 2020.*

## Turning a Vision Into a Reality



USA Counterpart Team

Back row, left to right: Virginia Adams, Mark Gorman, Allison Ervin, JC Tabet, Ken Cedeno, Linda Pratt, Ed Rhodes.  
Front row, left to right: Nanette Sprunger, Nick Giarelli, Deborah Sorge, Monica Coventy, Mary Harris, Marlene Bennett, Kathy Tschiegg.

CAMO team members volunteer their time, gifts and talents. They volunteer because they have a vision of a healthy, thriving Honduras. They work with their counterparts year after year to make this happen. The USA counterparts model works because all the volunteers understand their relationships with their Honduran counterparts is vital - these volunteers realize that listening to their counterpart is key. This is one of the reasons CAMO's counterpart model works - it is sustainable and empowering.

Mary Bennett of the neurosurgery team said it simply: "Every person is respected because they each have their niche and their place." Dr. Tabet likened the work and talents of each team member to that of the body of Christ, with each part serving a different but equally important role.

## Grateful Even When Not Selected

Before the arrival of the US Neurosurgical team Dr. Roberto Alvarez pre-screened 75 patients.

WWW TO LEARN MORE, VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
WWW.CAMO.ORG

Of the initial prescreened patients, only 28 men and women were selected. Each potential patient for surgery has a heartbreaking story: chronic pain, lost work and diminished quality of life. They look to CAMO once again to provide for their families—but only nine could be selected. Despite a rigorous schedule, counterparts Dr. JC Tabet and Dr. Roberto Alvarez took time to teach the attending medical students and work with the patient and their families to understand their diagnosis and options. Mary Harris, Deb Sorge and Marlene Bennett commented of their surprise, none of these people living with chronic pain were on opiates or other narcotics to control their pain. No drug addiction.

The most difficult moment came at the end of the day when Dr. JC Tabet and Dr. Roberto Alvarez had to share with the patients waiting which nine would have surgery and which patients would not. The grace they showed on their face of just having someone listen to them demonstrated their gratitude even though they were unable to be helped. Special thanks to Medtronic for providing surgical plates, screws and instrumentation to make this possible.



Dr Alvarez and a medical student assisting his patient to stand the day after surgery.

## Who Said Education Can't Be Fun?

"¡A mi, a mi, a mi...!"

Children gathered around Allison Ervin, clamoring for her attention—and her camera! They openly welcomed her, immediately warming up to her yellow camera that instantly printed mini photos and her tireless energy, giving piggyback rides again and again.

After a playful start, the children gather in the eating area for breakfast. Afterwards, CAMO-funded teacher Reina Garcia leads the older children through their lessons including civic history, counting and vocabulary, followed by lunch and a nap. Ninety children of very low-income working mothers attend the daycare. Seventeen of them will graduate and move on to the first grade in February of 2018. They have been identified as the best prepared children for first grade by the ministry of education!! A chance at the future. Thank you for your support.



Children kept Allison and translator Daniela Santos in constant motion during their time at the daycare.

*"I loved working with the children and being part of something really big— CAMO's work to change lives."*

## A Wise and Experienced Counterpart

Ibeth, 58 years old, loved teaching, but in early 2017 she lost her leg and was given a prosthetic leg.

The director of the elementary school felt she could not do her job with a prosthetic limb and removed her from the classroom, giving her secretarial duties away from the children and environment she loved. With each day, her self-worth and confidence fell, until she reached out to CAMO's prosthetic lab for help this October.

After ensuring the physical fit of the limb was good, Mark Gorman (counterpart of the prosthetic lab since 1997) began to address the emotional fit. From his years of experience, he was able to give advice and train his Honduras counterpart, prosthetic technologist Carlos Cortez, on many new but daily situations Ibeth faced: how to confront the overt biases from the director of the school and community and, more importantly, how to reclaim her self-confidence. He suggested dancing—it trains the body in balance and natural movement. Mark and Carlos encouraged her to dance with her son and we have received reports she is dancing—and has gained confidence in her movements. She is back as a teacher. A life changer!



Excited students gather around as Ibeth does what she loves most: teach.

*We at CAMO thank you wholeheartedly for your support. Visit our web page, CAMO.org for more news about CAMO.*

# Treating Patients with Dignity

The nurses from the Hospital de Occidente (HRO) were so concerned for patients and their care that they requested a course in treating patients with dignity and EKG lead placement.

This is the second year Monica Coventy has taught the course that covers the importance of respect, autonomy, empowerment and communication in a hospital setting—and little by little, things are changing. Empowered nurses took the ideas from last year's class to enact changes and created mobile privacy screens for each ward and a more personalized approach to nurse-patient interactions.

Monica's class was an open forum for nurses to discuss concerns and areas for change. In fact, the course was so popular that by Friday, Public Health Center staff requested a special class for their doctors and nurses. Honduran nurse Maricella Espinoza, the counterpart selected to work with Monica, shined with the opportunity to demonstrate her new knowledge as she co-presented the information to a full and energized room.



Counterpart Maricella Espinoza co-presents with Monica. "Do you feel like the doctors respect nurses?" The question lit up the room and sparked good discussion in Monica and Maricella's Dignity course at the Public Health Center.

# More Than One Life Saved This Week

Just down the hall from Monica's class, Nanette Sprunger, a counterpart educator in Honduras for 12 years, listened to stories—stories of the nurses' proactive actions from the knowledge they learned last year.

This year she focused on two life threatening heart rhythms, breaking down each component. The first day after class, they were able to correctly identify the waves and the corresponding patient conditions. They immediately went to the ward, corrected the lead placement on a man and prevented a life threatening rhythm. Simple EKG education is so vital in saving lives.

Both Monica and Nanette understand the struggles the Honduran nurses face daily within the hospital; and they know the lasting impact that education of this kind brings.

Thank you to those who have made possible the constant shipments of needed heart monitors and all the supplies. It is the combination of the right equipment with the right training, and proper maintenance which makes CAMO different.



Nanette Sprunger challenged nurses to put their newly learned skills to the test.

# Worth the Effort

German Barcenas the biomedical engineer in Honduras would not give up on an old ultrasound machine, even though his counterpart Nick Giarelli had told him last year it probably was not worth the effort.

The lack of a special cable and software programming prevented its operation. This did not stop them—the technician Nelson created a cable and connectors and Nick and German put their heads together and for the last time searching the internet for the technical support. They found it!!!! The next day the Logiq 400 Ultrasound machine was off to its new home.

After delivery, the unit was quickly set up. The clinic's doctor was excited as she eagerly watched German demonstrate the LOGIQ's abilities. The clinic provides many different women's health services so having a dependable diagnostic tool like an ultrasound unit with trusted biomedical support is invaluable.

Nick glowed as he shared the story during the morning breakfast with the rest of the teams. Joy can be derived from a life of service—we saw this in Nick's eyes as he passionately shared his work with German and Nelson.



Nick Giarelli, Nelson Pineda and German Barcenas install the repaired unit which will be a reliable diagnostic tool for years to come!



## Upcoming Events

**SHIPMENT** December 20, 2017

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY** December 13, 2017 • 11 am-1 pm • CAMO Orrville Facility

**SHIPMENT** January 2018

**TEAM 1** February 17-25, 2018

**TEAM 2** February 25-March 4, 2018

Save the Date!

**NUTRITION PROGRAM KICKOFF** March 10th, 2018 • Greek Community Center • Akron, OH

**GET THE CLUBS OUT AND HELP CAMO** June 9, 2018 • The Pines Golf Outing

**CAMO PUTS THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING** August 18, 2018 • Wooster Inn Salsa Sizzle



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

330.683.5956 or  
330.313.1000



## Adult Musical Instruments Needed!



Please Check Your Closets and Attics



Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Wooster, OH  
44691  
Permit No. 223

## CAMO

Central American  
Medical Outreach, Inc.  
322 Westwood Avenue  
Orrville, OH 44667

(330) 683-5956  
(330) 313-1000  
Fax: (330) 313-1001  
[www.CAMO.org](http://www.CAMO.org)

Address Service  
Requested

# Help Us Transform Lives This Christmas Season



*Give the gift of caring this holiday season.*

For Christmas this year, re-imagine gift giving for yourself, and for your loved ones by helping CAMO continue to provide life-saving and life-changing services in Honduras. Don't know what to get that special someone? How about giving the gift of life? CAMO directly cares for approximately 139,000 medical needs of patients every year!

You can personalize a gift card for that special person. Call our office at 330-683-5956 to order or if you have any questions.

Please remember those in need during these difficult economic times, and continue to give hope to the forgotten. Donations can be made online for your convenience. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated.

*Visit [CAMO.org](http://CAMO.org) to find out how you can get involved.*



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



Be a part of CAMO's exciting journey by subscribing to the **CAMO USA** channel



Follow **Central American Medical Outreach** on LinkedIn



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

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