



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



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

The Exodus: On my return from Honduras, people will ask my opinion about the exodus from Latin America.

It is a complex situation caused by many underlying factors; as an article in the Wall Street Journal recently explained, “Understanding why migrants leave their home countries could help government authorities develop programs to deter them and ease the continuing family migration crisis at the southern U.S. border.” (Oct. 15, 2018). Here are the critical points you need to understand first.

Over the last twelve years, political corruption has become entrenched in Central America due to the lack of checks and balances within government, as well as the failure of First World leaders to challenge this corruption. As a result, Honduras now suffers from the following problems:

- People have no faith in their elected officials; corruption is the rule now, rather than the exception.
- Rampant nepotism has resulted in failures in essential services—particularly education and health care—as well as many other services necessary for a stable civic society.
- Small business opportunities have declined and many businesses have closed their doors due to corrupt monopolies (for example, drug fronts designed to launder money).
- Drug cartels are growing in power and momentum.
- The economy is in crisis: unemployment is at 60%; 43% of those under twenty-one have no employable skills, and workers are taxed at 50%.
- New laws benefit business monopolies owned by leaders of government.
- For many international agencies, funding is spent on consulting services and expensive meetings; little funding reaches Hondurans themselves.
- The international community lacks an action plan to address these inhumane and unethical behaviors, so that dictators operate with few ramifications.

Given the combined force of these failures, the exodus of thousands

is merely a symptom—and our typical responses simply treat the symptom rather than diagnosing and addressing the real problems. We can help poor Central Americans to immigrate, build a wall, refuse immigrants entry...but the exodus will continue to escalate if we do not treat its cause by attacking the core issues listed above. A strong international community, with leaders who still believe in freedom of speech, ethical conduct, and basic human rights, needs to be willing to call out tyrants on their devotion to false appearances, which simply conceals the true nature of their actions.

Where does this leave CAMO? CAMO is needed more now than in any time of our twenty-five-year history. As I write, lines of people are crossing Santa Rosa de Copan in search of a better life. Every night, thirty more people seek shelter and food so they can continue their journey. In my thirty-nine years of listening to the people of Honduras, this is the first time I have heard so many say they have lost hope for the future of their country. Every day, people file into our reception area, knowing that we are their last hope to find desperately needed help and hope for a brighter future.

Our work is more important than ever. Just yesterday a successful businessman who has been building his business for forty years explained how desperate the situation in Honduras has become due to competition from all the new “businesses” which are simply fronts for money-laundering. Then, a forty-two-year-old man and his wife came to ask, with tears in their eyes, for help with a kidney transplant. Meanwhile, a mother from El Salvador sat waiting patiently, holding her baby; near death, his little body was limp, his head twice as large as it should be, because he desperately needed a shunt for hydrocephalus.

And those are just a few of the people I saw yesterday...every day, the blind, the lame, the desperate come to our doors and we help to restore a bit of hope and faith in the hearts of mankind. The baby received the shunt the next day. As for the others: we will stand by them in their journey.

My hope is that you continue to stand by CAMO as we make this journey with the people who have nowhere else to go.



Left to right: Hundreds of Hondurans joining the caravan to the USA in hope of a better future. • This boy spending the night at the municipality gym is also part of the caravan of immigrants. • The municipality gym in Santa Rosa became the shelter to hundreds of families from the caravan.

Service Includes Education, Medical, and Community Development

We attempt to categorize our service in these three areas, but sometimes a single program covers all three.

The Literacy program does just this. Across thirteen schools, we reach a total of 1,115 children.

For the program's first three years, we focused on supplying books and developing a reading program for the children, working with teachers to allow daily time to read and talk about books. Our dental program in these schools had achieved great results, but we realized that other conditions were going undiagnosed, which decreased the children's ability to learn. So, in February of this year, we began to address these obstacles to learning as well.

Andrea, an eleven-year-old girl, was quiet during our conversation with the children in her class. Her teacher reported that Andrea was usually distracted in class with learning problems and a tendency to fall. Realizing that she suffered from strabismus, we arranged to bring her to our ophthalmology program for diagnosis. Due to lack of appropriate treatment, Andrea had developed an amblyopia; our treatment included glasses and the patching method. On our recent visit to the school, we found Andrea to be a different person: she now plays with her classmates, is eager to learn, and participates in class. As a single mother of four children, Andrea's mother could never have afforded the treatment necessary to improve Andrea's vision; the gift of vision changed not only the family's life, but little Andrea's future.



Andrea and her mother in the community of El Sile, San Francisco del Valle.

This year alone, through our Literacy Program, we have screened 1,115 children for hearing, vision, dental, and nutritional deficiencies; more importantly, appropriate care was provided to resolve the problems we found.

During the Honduran school year, which runs from February through November, our goals were to provide screening and intervention to resolve basic obstacles to learning. This year, we have screened 1,115 children for hearing, vision, dental, and nutritional deficiencies; more importantly, appropriate care was provided to resolve the problems we found.

This coming school year, beginning in February 2019, we are providing the teachers with urgently needed textbooks — a \$7,000 investment.



Clockwise: Jorge Moncada providing vision screening for children. • Nutritionist Bianca Ramirez evaluating children's nutritional health. • Carmen Carbajal checking on children's vision. • Bryan Pineda providing audiometry screening exams.

Making Good Progress

We are making progress toward our goal of establishing standard nursing care in hospitals.

For the past four years, we have presented standard protocols to the top leaders in Honduras's Ministry of Health; while government leaders have been resistant to change, doctors in private practice have asked for the protocols, which we happily shared with them.

As a result of these experiences, our approach has changed: we have begun to offer procedural training in both the private and public sectors. After the first private hospital provided training for all their nurses, they have seen a change in quality and outcomes of patient care. Ironically, when the Ministry of Health evaluated this private hospital, they were so impressed by the impact of standard nursing procedures that they asked if they could introduce our procedural manual to the Ministry of Health. The director, Alfredo Tabora of Centro Medico, explained, "We have seen the change in the quality of care and

due to this, our evaluation of our services received high ratings with the Ministry of Health. Today we have completed training of all our nurses. This has had a positive impact on our patients and the evaluations of our nurses."

We would like to take this opportunity to offer a special thank you to the SG Foundation for providing a matching grant for this project last year, and approving another matching grant this year. We also thank United Titanium for providing the largest matching funds, and thank many others for their support.

The moral of the story is that when you are doing the right thing, be kind, innovative, focused and tenacious. The right thing will win out in the end. The three major universities of Honduras have now signed contracts with CAMO, and two of these universities already plan to use our manual.



Dr. Odessa Henriquez, UNITEC University Dean of faculty of medical sciences, signing agreement for a new training center with Kathryn Tschiegg, CAMO's Founder/Director.

"We have seen the change in the quality of care and due to this, our evaluation of our services received high ratings with the Ministry of Health. Today we have completed training of all our nurses."

**—Alfredo Tabora,
Director of Centro Medico**

Below left: Nurse Norma Puerto training professional nurses from Juan Manuel Galvez hospital in nursing protocols. Below right: Kathryn Tschiegg, CAMO Founder/Director, signing agreement with Dr. Pedro Quiel, Director of CUROC-UNAH University in Santa Rosa de Copan.



Rotary International

A dream come true!

Last year at this time, with the help of Becky Jewell of the Orrville Rotary Club and Nancy Nikiforow of Columbus, we wrote a grant proposal for \$60,000 to achieve our dream of providing our American Heart Association Training program in Honduras with state-of-the-art adult and infant manikins with simulation abilities.

Many thanks to Phil Mariola of Wooster, who introduced our founder to twelve Rotary clubs, where she presented the program. The result was that by October 2017, we had pledges to apply for the grant; in December the grant was approved; and by February 2018 the manikins were in Honduras, where they are being used. This equipment allows us to provide realistic simulations of the different situations that can arise in real life, and train professionals in appropriate responses. The program is now part of our contracts with the medical programs of the major universities.

The following Rotary clubs supported us financially:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| • Orrville | • North Canton | • Salem |
| • Plain Township | • South Canton | • Massillon |
| • Stow | • Canton | • Santa Rosa Rotary assisted to process the grant application. |
| • Dalton | • East Canton | |
| • Dennison | • Wooster | |



Top: Dr. Aida Rodriguez evaluating the resuscitation techniques of a group of medical doctors taking an ACLS course at the Academy of Professional Excellence-ACEP. Bottom: New equipment in use—students from ACLS practice intubation.

Fall Teams

This year, individuals have travelled to Honduras at different times.

Dr. Kevin Waltz led ophthalmology teams in October and November. Lead researcher, Dr. Douglas Morgan, brought gastroenterology students from Vanderbilt University to assist with a study.

Monica Coventry joined us to train neonatal staff in the care of the infants on ventilators; she gave continuing education to all the nurses in the neonatal unit in Santa Rosa, and also traveled to Gracias to train staff at a public hospital. Monica was impressed with staff attendance, questions, and most importantly, the corrections that staff quickly made to their procedures. The neonatologist was so emotional about the training that after Monica's departure, we worked to form a fundraising group called 'Feet of Love.' This group will help supply necessary medicine and blood gases for the critical neonate.



Nurse Monica Coventry, assisted by Miriam Arguelles as translator, training nurses in neonatal care.

One of Sixty-Four Brigades A Year

Just before he and his family were ready to leave, after a day of waiting their turn for treatment by the CAMO medical brigade, Marco Antonio turned around and said, “Thanks for taking care of my family.”

From the community of Conales, Gualme Corquín Copán, Marco Antonio’s family works on a coffee farm. He was evaluated for his vision problem and provided treatment; his three younger children and granddaughter were evaluated and treated by a pediatrician for the first time ever; and his wife and daughter were evaluated by the gynecologist.

For a family who supports themselves by cutting coffee during the harvest season, access to specialized health services is impossible. Their community has only one small health center with an auxiliary nurse — a position requiring less education than a nurse’s aide does in the USA. Due to finite resources and training, the clinic is limited to administering vaccines.

The table below lists the services we provide to this remote community in one day. Many thanks to the Honduran doctors and nurses who donate their time!



Marco Antonio’s family ready to return home after receiving medical care from our brigade.

SPECIALTY	VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS	# TREATED
General Medicine	Dr. Alexis Melgar, Dr. Cesar Claudino	58
Pediatrics	Dr. Edwin Bautista, Dr. Irvin Orellana	45
Ophthalmology	Jorge Moncada, Carmen Carbajal	46
Gynecology	Dr. Nancy Rivera	
Gynecology Exam		26
Ultrasound		10
Pap Smears		13
Dentistry	Dr. Carmen Fajardo	40
Audiometry	Bryan Pineda	13
Breast Cancer Prevention & Examinations	Carmen Benítez	58
Total Number of Patients Treated		309

OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED TO PATIENTS	
Prescriptions dispensed	200
Master clothing packets distributed	296



Find out how
you can help!

Visit camo.org
or call the CAMO
office 330-683-
5956 for more
information.

Neurology and the Need for Proper Treatment

Our brigades go out to these rural communities every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Without exception, every visit presents difficult medical situations. Sixteen-year-old Martha was one of these cases. An epileptic, she had been given too much of the wrong medicine to control seizures, but had never been seen by a specialist. Through our partnership with World Vision, we found her in terrible condition with severe secondary gingival hyperplasia and uncontrolled seizures. She was seen by our neurology program. With the correct treatment her gum disease was corrected and her seizures are now under control.

Thanks to neurologist Dr. Lester Coello and his willingness to volunteer his services one day per week, CAMO assists with treatment of sixty-eight children with some form of neurological condition. Some, on coming to us, had up to twenty-one seizures a day. Now, under Dr. Coello's treatment, the seizures are controlled completely. Through our partnership with World Vision, they assist with the cost of the medicine in some cases, while we cover the rest.



Left: Sixteen-year-old Martha at home, suffering from secondary gingival hyperplasia and uncontrolled seizures. Right: Martha a few months after receiving the appropriate treatment from our neurology and dental programs.

Thanks to neurologist Dr. Lester Coello and his willingness to volunteer his services one day per week, CAMO assists with treatment of sixty-eight children with some form of neurological condition.

When Hope is Restored

Walking into the office Thursday morning, three of our staff were anxiously waiting for me, wanting to share the story of Delmy and her mother.

Jose, the Executive Director in Honduras, began: "Can you believe this, Kathy, the mother came to us hopeless; her daughter had constant seizures, and all she wanted was a cushion. Her daughter had not walked for over six months and she lost all hope."

I asked, "Were we able to provide her with the cushion?"

"Yes, but she needed treatment. We scheduled her daughter to be evaluated

by the neurologist and he prescribed medicine; her seizures stopped. Now Delmy is also walking—can you believe this? She is walking and doesn't have seizures anymore!"

Later that day, I had the privilege of meeting Delmy and her mother. The mother began thanking me, then started to weep, telling me of her hopelessness and how we have given her hope. With a lump in my throat, all I could do was hug her.



Delmy and her mother sharing an affectionate hug.

We saw six other children that day. As dusk came, I was the last one out of the office and I was tired. As I locked the door I thought, "If we were not here today, what would have happened to these children?" I smiled. Today was a good day.



Other Medical Services

The human resources and the hearts of service are alive and well in Honduras.

People caring for people in the midst of hopeless situations can accomplish great things.

In Honduras, we have many Honduran doctors and nurses who suffer for their patients. Five of those doctors volunteer one day a week to evaluate and provide treatment to patients who have no resources to pay. Our space is limited: we have one office space that we converted into a multi-use clinic, and a small waiting area, half of which converts into a dental clinic. Despite these restrictions on our

space and time, every year we add services due to the great need and the gaps in the public health system, which is collapsing around us, unable to provide even basic care due to governmental corruption and complacency.

We know that we cannot change the direction of the Ministry of Health in Honduras. Instead, we do whatever we can to fill the gaps, through continued education and services that would not otherwise be available to patients.

We are so grateful for attorney Ramon Flores who has donated land in a strategic location to us. We are in the process of designing a warehouse, as well as rental spaces to create revenue to fund our medical services. When this facility is built, we will convert our present facility into clinics providing specialty services to the poor on a sliding scale. We will be working on the design and budget in the next twelve months. At that time, we will begin to seek funding for this multi-phase project.

PROGRAM	DAY	TREATED THIS YEAR
Nutrition	Monday	88 (Program started April 2018)
Dermatology	Tuesday	217 per year
Diabetic Foot	Wednesday	33 (Program started September 2018)
Neurology	Thursday	235 per year
Psychology	Friday	18 (Program started September 2018)
Dental	Monday-Friday	693 per year



Above: Nutritionist Bianca Ramirez evaluating babies' nutritional health at CAMO's multi-use clinic. Top right: Neurologist Dr. Lester Coello checking on progress of a regular patient at CAMO's clinic. Middle: Dermatologist, Dr. Cinthia Espinoza, evaluating progress of medical treatment. Bottom: Patients waiting to be seen by medical specialists at CAMO's reception area.

Trade School Construction: Progress Continues

We continue to seek funding for the Trade School.

Little by little, the project advances. For each \$5,000 gathered, we add to the building. We have received support from Honduran individuals and businesses. Honduras trains people to be engineers and doctors, but falls so very short in business education. People lack job opportunities because training is not accessible to the majority. The exodus from Honduras is largely a result of the lack of facilities and organizations to supply technical training to the social group that desperately needs job opportunities.

CAMO is working to provide a solution for technical training—but the need may not seem compelling. I cannot show you the face of a starving child or mother; I cannot show you an image of a crime to convince you of this project's urgency. But know this: technological training offers a solution to unemployment issues; by doing so, such training directly impacts children and women and security. We are asking you to understand the problems Hondurans face, and help us in community development, which is essential to provide long-term solutions.



Above: Front view of welding and carpentry modules. Below: The welding and carpentry modules of the Trade School are almost finished.

“I cannot show you the face of a starving child or mother; I cannot show you an image of a crime to convince you of this project’s urgency. But know this: technological training offers a solution to unemployment issues...”



Every Donation Helps

Last year in December, I had the pleasure of speaking at Laurel Lake Retirement Center.

Not only did the people there respond with financial and moral support for our programs, but also, when they were remodeling their exercise facility, they donated five beautiful mint condition exercise machines. We are happy to report the equipment has arrived in Honduras and a part of the community gym is being renovated to allow for its installation. Thank you, Sister Ana Maria, Ann Farmer, and all of the staff and supporters of Laurel Lake Community Gym!



Laurel Lake's donation of exercise equipment has arrived at the municipality gym in Santa Rosa de Copan!



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HELPING
HANDS!

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DENTAL KITS INCLUDE:

toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, wash cloth and a bar of soap.



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GO GREEN!

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



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS NEEDED!



PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLOSETS & ATTICS!

MANY THANKS TO HELPING HANDS!



Just To Make You Smile

A picture is worth a thousand words. This event for the children in our daycare was filled with laughter and fun. Enjoy the photos!



Clowns are fun, we want to keep them!



I'm loving my butterfly and gifts.



Capturing the joy and excitement of children at the daycare's celebration day.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Salsa Sizzle

Salsa Sizzle was again a great success with a live Latin band, beautiful Latin-inspired cuisine and celebrity bartending competitions, as well as great donated auction items. We would like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, staff and all of you who participated in this wonderful event. Our net after all costs exceeded any previous years', thanks to those who donated their time. We loved having you with us for this event, which resulted in \$42,000 sent to Honduras to help with our most urgently needed medical services.



Evening of Jazz

In Pittsburgh, an Evening of Jazz earned over \$2,800 for the Respiratory Program in the neonatal unit. Thank you to the Susan & Harold Shelter family and friends for supporting this event!

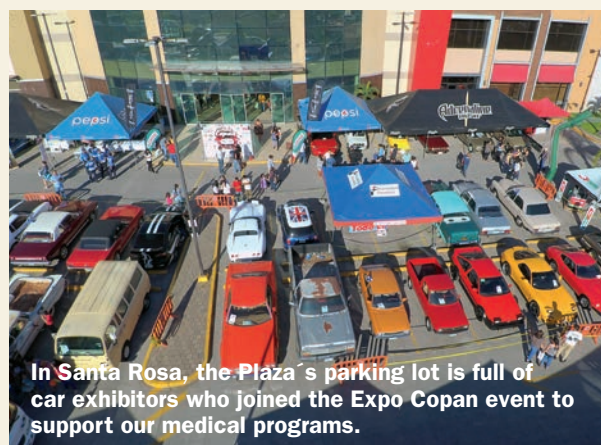
Concert in Painesville

Claude Bourbon performed a night of Medieval and Spanish Blues. Thanks to Steve Todd and his wife, owners of the Sugar Lake Lodge, for offering this venue at no cost to CAMO! The concert raised \$500 to support our mission.



Meanwhile, in Santa Rosa, an Antique Car Show

It did not matter that the Honduran roads were in bad shape for a ride. Driven by the desire to help hydrocephalus and cerebral palsy patients, seventy-two car exhibitors from all areas of Honduras joined our annual classic car show in Santa Rosa de Copan, with support from CAMO Honduras and the Honduran Classic Car Association. Rain on the first day did not cloud over the excitement of many families gathered in the plaza to participate in this unique exhibition activity. In all, we raised \$11,600 to fund our programs. We are so thankful to each individual and all the local businesses that supported us.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark Your Calendar!

- » **NOVEMBER 2018:** Container to Honduras
- » **NOVEMBER 27, 2018:** Giving Tuesday— The College of Wooster project to help raise funds with new donors.
- » **DECEMBER 11, 2018:** 11am–1pm:
Join us for the Volunteer & Staff Appreciation Luncheon at the CAMO facility.
Please RSVP so we can prepare for the number attending.
- » **JANUARY 2019:** Container to Honduras
- » **FEBRUARY 16–24, 2019:** Team I to Honduras
- » **FEBRUARY 24–MARCH 3, 2019:** Team II to Honduras
- » **JUNE 8, 2019:** Annual Golf Outing at The Pines



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Help CAMO continue to provide life-saving and life-changing services in Honduras.

Throughout the year, consider saving the money you might spend on something conventional—instead, put your money where it counts. Think about that expensive daily coffee habit; the cost of just one cup could buy a book for our literacy program. Or consider the gift of caring; reimagine gift-giving for yourself and your loved ones by donating in memory or in honor of someone special.

Your help is vital to keep providing life-changing services to those in the greatest need.

Visit **CAMO.ORG** or call the CAMO office **330-683-5956** • Fax **330-313-1001**



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WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Make a donation • Host a fundraiser!

Need ideas? Call the CAMO office or email camo@camo.org!

Volunteer onsite or offsite

CAMO needs volunteers!

Your legacy could include CAMO!

Please consider including us in your estate planning.

Know someone who would like to learn about CAMO?

Please send us their contact info!

Find CAMO on Facebook

Invite your friends to learn about what we do!



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.