



# CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



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

## Here or There!!

**In the last eighteen months, CAMO has seen an exponential increase in requests for both supplies and equipment as more and more patients are coming to us as their last—and only—resort.**

Here is what is happening: the public health system is closing down all specialty services, forcing medical care to the private sector. They are very effectively doing this by not providing any of the supplies or equipment needed for procedures. Therefore the twenty-eight public hospitals no longer have supplies or adequate equipment or training of staff to provide care to the 60% of the population who are under or unemployed—a population totally dependent on the public health system. If the present trend continues, in the near future these patients will have no alternatives to care. Whether or not this reduction of health care services is intentional, it is a devastating by-product of poverty and a reflection of the quality of leadership in Honduras—and the result is extreme suffering.

Poverty is the primary cause of Hondurans' desperate search for a better life beyond their own borders, and thus the leading cause of the epidemic of immigration. The coyotes' network has proven to be effective; they convince both working and unemployed Hondurans to scrape together large sums of money for the mere chance of a better life. Do not be misled: the majority of Hondurans coming to the USA are not looking for handouts, nor are they thieves; they are simply poor people desperate to escape poverty, wishing and praying for a better life.

It is my belief that people in the USA are either tired of hearing about the immigration issue, or so overwhelmed by it that they are immobilized. But a model already exists for bringing Central American communities the services they desperately need in order to thrive within their own communities. This model includes education, community development, and medical services.

Currently, as we attempt to resolve the immigration crisis, public funding is being spent on a method that we could compare to placing your thumb on a bleeding artery—instead of taking care of the core problem, which is repairing that artery. So we pay \$700 per person per night in retention centers, and then ten times more for every medical service that immigrants need here in the USA. But in their home countries, \$700 is what some families are living on *for the entire year*. \$700 is two months' pay for 60% for workers. Is it not time we rethink our funding model? Why not redirect funds to organizations that positively impact the countries and communities in need? This cannot—and I cannot stress enough—this cannot be done government to government, due to grafting and corruption. Instead, funding needs to be sent directly to impactful non-governmental agencies with proven track records.

Later in this newsletter you will read about the developmental, educational, and medical services we provide on a daily basis. These impacted over 114,000 people in 2019 alone: 114,000 people who now do not have to escape to another country to look for help. We would like to increase our services—but we cannot do it without your support. So if you are angry, immobilized or overwhelmed, we are here. We are on the ground, doing needed work every day, without corruption or grafting and with extreme accountability. We are now implementing long term planning and planned giving options, so that CAMO will remain strong and continue to provide services for decades to come. With your support, we can increase our services and solve some of the problems causing the mass exodus.

CAMO has funds set up at the Wayne County Community Foundation or The Columbus Foundation. Please call the office for more information.



**Founder and International Director Kathryn Tschiegg greeting little Edman, a patient from the ophthalmology program.**

# How Sustainable Missions Should Work

by Mary Saylor Loder

**In my eighteen years volunteering with CAMO, I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of great people, both Honduran and American.**

Most people would argue that on the whole, short term medical missions (STMMs) are achieving a net good. But too many are characterized by inadequate consideration of their long-term impact on communities. We should not engage in a project simply because it feels right. STMMs can be problematic when there is no existing structure in place and providers implement measures that members of the community have no way of continuing. With these issues in mind, I was asked to create a course that would address some serious deficiencies identified by the nursing leadership at The Hospital de Occidente following a national exam.

Our emphasis on partnerships with local leadership is, in part, what has made CAMO so effective and sustainable, and the wisdom of this approach was never more apparent to me than during this project. Nurses at the Hospital de Occidente themselves identified needs, requested training, and sought education through CAMO: this is exactly how sustainable missions should work.

Moreover, the benefit of my longstanding connection with CAMO became very apparent during this project as well. In February, while preparing to teach the curriculum to nurses in Santa Rosa and neighboring Gracias, I was eager to meet the new director of nursing who had been appointed the year before. When this director walked through the door of Kathy's office and I recognized my old friend Lourdes Guevara, I knew that only God could have orchestrated this leadership: I taught Lourdes in a class for Fetal Monitoring probably twelve years prior and kept in touch with her through social media ever since. As a result, our connection was immediate and a level of trust had been established even before we

began training. We quickly came to an agreement: I would return to Honduras in May and June for four weeks, to teach more nurses and add additional material. And in the weeks before the May training, 90 nurses signed up to take the class.

During my time in Honduras from February to June, I saw CAMO through a new set of eyes. I interacted with young doctors who had translated for our medical teams and were inspired to go into medicine. I found a generation of young people in Santa Rosa that never knew their hometown without CAMO. I am honored and humbled to witness how much of an impact we have been able to make in this western region of Honduras. Generations of Hondurans have been touched by this amazing Non Governmental Organization. I have made lifelong friends in Honduras with whom I share friendship, love, and mutual respect for the professionals who fight every day to help their fellow countrymen. I am blessed beyond all measure.



**Mary Saylor working alongside hospital nurse on newborn assessment procedures**



**Hospital nurses proudly showing their certificates of completion on newborn assessment training with their instructor Mary Saylor.**



# First Responders Course, First Ever Offered to This Group!

Right before my departure to the USA, in late April 2019, I had a meeting with the Chief of Police for the western region of Honduras who has 438 police officers under his supervision.

The CAMO executive staff never knows what is going to happen during our scheduled meetings. As this one progressed, Captain Nunez shared concerns over the absence of training for police officers when responding to any type of accident. This led our conversation to our programs, which are certified by the AHA. Captain Nunez requested our help, at which point CAMO made the commitment to provide first responder courses to his police force of 438 officers.

On May 28 and 29, 2019, CAMO staff carried out training in first aid, basic CPR, and the use of an automatic external

defibrillator for the national police. We had a total participation of twenty-seven men and five women. The course took place in our facility, the “Academy of Professional Excellence SRC.” Our goal and commitment is to provide this training to the entire police force within the next twelve months. We will also be helping to set up a health clinic for their police officers. At present, officers have no access to care if they become ill or are injured during work. In many ways, our work is setting new standards of care in Honduras.



A group of the national police taking a course on CPR education.



Police officers doing a first aid practice with the CAMO staff.

## Perfect Example of Putting the Cart Before the Horse

Dr. Tony Lazcano, former ER doctor of Aultman Hospital, has been working with CAMO since 2007.

Dr. Lazcano and I sat with our mouths open as we met with the appointed Directors of the new Honduras facility for dispatch and taking 911 calls. We quickly found out they had no protocols, no standards, and no system to guide their employees. These dispatch center workers had no criteria for how to respond to a caller to prevent confusion among responders. They lacked knowledge about

some of the key first responder groups already providing services. Now they were sitting in the CAMO Honduras office asking CAMO for assistance. In response, we will be bringing a delegation from Honduras to visit the Stark and Wayne County area to study the different protocols and internal systems needed for a functional 911 call center. Joining us on September 15th will be Juan Carlos

Degrandez, National Director of the National System Emergency 911 System; Dennis Mauricio Armijo, Regional Coordinator West National System 911; and Marvin Lenin Hernandez Fuentes, Deputy Commissioner of Police.

*We would like to thank Cyndi Annen of Aultman Hospital for her assistance and knowledge in this endeavor.*

# Youth Group Visit

## Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, Ohio is a major contributor to CAMO.

Due to this longstanding connection, once every four years the youth group is given the option to join an international trip with CAMO.

**This year, we had five youth from the USA and five Honduran bilingual youth counterparts:**

The US team included Charissa Gilbert, Colin Daniels, Jacob Hofstetter, Karey Lehman, Dillon Horst, with youth leaders Carli Braun and Jeremy Braun. The Honduran counterparts were Mario Perez, Luis Santos, Diana Mejia, Daniel Penman, and Angie Castellanos.

For this year's trip, one important goal was to provoke the youth to think about and experience living with less; without social media or cellular communication, students could focus on the culture, lifestyle, and daily challenges faced by people living in an underdeveloped country. The first two days, due to location, students simply had no cellphone reception—no problem. The third day, however, reception was restored—and it quickly became evident that some of the young people from the USA could not fight their cellphone addiction. They could not experience their surroundings or connect with those around them, because the temptation of phone access was too hard to resist. As a result, group leaders decided to remove the temptation: all phones were placed in a backpack. What happened next is a study in human behavior. Students started getting to know each other: there was better eye contact, more laughter, lively conversation . . . and, in the end, a deeper understanding of the different culture that surrounded them. Thanks to the great leadership of Jeremy and Carli Braun, we accomplished our goals.

### Here are unedited comments from the USA youth group:

**Jake:** I have experienced many parts of the world, yet none have had the same effect as the trip we've had to Honduras. The people, the environment, the place itself has changed me. It has taken the blindness away and replaced it with vision. I have a new idea of the world, one I wish for others to gain. Honduras has changed me in a way no other place has, one that will remain in my heart the rest of my life.

**Colin:** The trip to Honduras has opened my eyes to a completely different culture and made me realize how good we have it in the USA. I hope from now on I will be able to appreciate the little things like clean water.

**Charissa:** This trip really changed my views on developing countries and I got to experience firsthand what life is like. I am forever grateful for this opportunity that CAMO gave us. Going to Honduras was so worth it and I hope I can always look back on this great trip I got to experience with my awesome friends in the youth group.

**Dillon:** The mission trip went really well and helped me realize the seriousness of the situation CAMO is in. What they are doing is very clearly God's work. My view on the people of Honduras has changed a little and most of them just want an opportunity to provide for their family and CAMO is helping that happen. It's nice to actually see all that CAMO is doing up close. Without CAMO so many people wouldn't have prosthetics or even be alive. It was mind-blowing that the kitchen in the hospital serves around 600 plates every meal. Also, I thought the women's shelter was a very good and important foundation.

**Karey:** This trip really changed my view on developing countries. The people are great. Our counterparts were amazing people. CAMO is doing a great job in helping the people that are in need. Thank you CAMO for this opportunity to see what you all do. With CAMO lots of people get the help that they need. The Daycare Center was my favorite place that we went to. The kids just came up and gave us all hugs around the legs. It was an instant bond. They were so happy to see us.

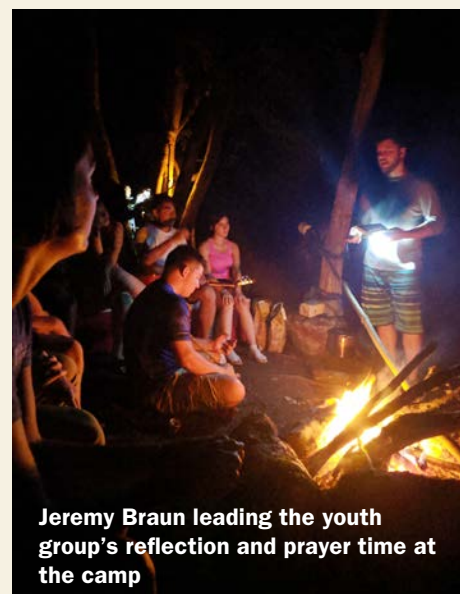
The years ahead will tell us if this trip truly made a lasting impact on these young lives. Will their firsthand experience of Honduras convert them to helping those in dire need, or will it just sit on their experience shelf and get dusty?



Youth group from the Salem Mennonite Church with their Honduran counterparts in front of the CAMO Honduras warehouse.



Youth group learning to make a pot the old fashioned way.



Jeremy Braun leading the youth group's reflection and prayer time at the camp



# An Alternative and Inexpensive Approach: Simulation Training

We could not have imagined the opportunities Brent Devore, the former CEO of Otterbein University for twenty-five years, would bring to CAMO.

## NURSE TRAINING: HESS

Brent, a CAMO board member, and his wife Nancy Nikiforow have helped to open many doors to CAMO. One of those was meeting with Stephanie Justice RN, MSN, CHSE. Stephanie's innovative thinking in simulation and moulage (the art of applying mock injuries for the purpose of training emergency response teams and other medical and military personnel) provided the incentive behind a new way of thinking and training nurses for real-life scenarios, using a cutting edge and low cost technology: simulation equipment. And through Stephanie, CAMO staff met Jeff Becker, an engineer who took the concept and made this technology usable by turning it into a learning experience: he asked engineering students at Otterbein to help him develop the concept, and together they created a new inexpensive technique for simulating emergency situations. Thus the birth of the invention called the Healthcare Education Simulation Station (HESS).

Jeff Becker provides the best description of this real-life training paradigm shift: "HESS offers an alternative approach to high cost nursing simulation equipment to benefit nursing education and nursing outcomes globally." This alternative approach enables simulation training to be conducted at a price that underdeveloped countries and small budget university branches can afford. A single high-tech manikin can cost \$100,000, and a full simulation center

can cost more than one million dollars. The HESS system costs \$49 per month, with a startup cost under \$1,200, and is able to stimulate the same real life scenarios. No component of the system costs more than \$125 to replace. It is exciting to be part of the expansion of this technology as well as its increasing availability.

**With this opportunity to create real life learning experiences, CAMO brought key staff and educators from Honduran universities to the USA** to learn the HESS system. They then carried this system back with them. In May we had the honor of spending six days with Ana Julia Melgar RN, MSN UNAH-CUROC Director of Nursing Education; Teresa Carrillo RN, MSN CEUTEC Director of Nursing Education; Dr. Tania Espinal UNITEC Simulation lab coordinator; and Kenia Calderón RN Instructor Nursing Protocols' ACEP. Special thanks to Nancy Nikiforow for bringing in meals during her Sunday training session in Moulage. Nurses are a strange group of people. We all had fun making fake burns, penetrating stab wounds, and secretions that look and smell real. It was a great learning experience. Recipes were shared and Moulage kits provided to take to Honduras for training medical and nursing students. CAMO will be the exclusive distributor of this product in Central America; this could become a permanent revenue stream for us in the future.



Stephanie Justice instructing professors from three Honduran universities and the Hospital de Occidente on how to use the new simulation equipment (HESS) at Otterbein University in Ohio.



Group picture with all the professionals that participated in making the HESS system training a reality for the university professors of Honduras.

# Teachers have grave challenges very different from those in the USA.

## CAMO is in the Fifth Year of Our Literacy Program, with Thirteen of the Poorest Rural Schools Participating.

Over the years, we have been able to provide reading libraries of 300 books to each of these schools through generous support from Third World Books, St Paul's Cleveland Heights Global Mission Action Group, and the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio Commission for Global and Domestic Mission (CGDM). Edward and Mary Eberhart also have been substantial contributors. We are so thankful for this support—but given our goal of providing textbooks for all children in these high-poverty schools, we need more contributors so that we can broaden our outreach.

Last year, while initiating vision, hearing, dental and nutritional screening for all the children in these schools, we also began to provide books—but our funding allowed for only one textbook per subject per grade in each school. All the schools and teachers responded positively, with many telling us they have never had resources like the teacher's guides that we gave them. During follow-up and monitoring of the forty-eight teachers and thirteen schools, both principals and teachers emphasized the need for our assistance with provision of textbooks.

Over the next five years, therefore, our objective is to provide textbooks to all children in our target schools, and training to their teachers. By February of 2020, therefore, we will provide books for grades 1 and 2 in all thirteen schools. In each subsequent year, we will add two more grade levels—so by February of 2021 we will add books for grades 3 and 4, etcetera. The cost of books for the four core subjects (Spanish, Math, Social Studies and Science) is \$21,281 per year.

In addition to providing textbooks, we must train teachers in pedagogical techniques—so we will be working with Kristin Bourdage of Otterbein University to coordinate a team of US teachers to travel to Honduras for one week per year. Our year-by-year program will continue until every student in every grade has a textbook in each core subject, and until all the teachers have been trained in their use. If resources become available, we would love to complete the full project in one year. So if you love education and understand the impact that textbooks and teaching training can have on building strong communities to resolve the immigration crisis—please call us, we remain forever hopeful.



**Math, Science, Spanish and Social Study textbooks given to the rural schools in the Literacy Program.**

*...our funding allowed for only one textbook per subject per grade in each school*



**One teacher and three grades in one classroom! This is one of the 13 rural schools we support with the Literacy Program.**





**CAMO Honduras Executive Director José Bautista welcoming the students and parents to the CAMO brigade.**



**Nutritionist Bianca Ramirez doing evaluations at the rural school of El Sile, San Francisco del Valle, Ocotepeque with CAMO's brigade.**



**Sisters during CAMO's medical and educational brigade in their rural school of El Sile San Francisco Del Valle, Ocotepeque.**



**Children receiving hearing evaluations with CAMO's medical brigade in their rural school.**



**WE LOVE  
HELPING  
HANDS!**

## **Help Our Dental Program by Providing Dental Kits**

**IT'S A GREAT ACTIVITY FOR ANY GROUP!**

### **DENTAL KITS INCLUDE:**

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



**CALL THE CAMO  
OFFICE AT  
330.683.5956  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**



# Ophthalmology Brigade

May 14-15 & July 15-16, 2019

If you follow our newsletters you might remember a story we shared with you about forty-six year old Maria and her daughter Carmen, twenty-one.

In May of 2018 they were led into our clinic by their family, who hoped we could help them. We stopped dead in our tracks when we saw them, emaciated and malnourished. Carmen weighed in at fifty-one lbs and her mother at sixty-nine lbs. They were totally blind and confined to their wheelchairs and beds. In May of 2018, we removed cataracts from one eye for each of them—and partial vision was restored. This May, they returned for surgery on their second eye. Already, Maria's weight was up to ninety-six lbs and Carmen's to eighty lbs. The CAMO nutritionist continues to monitor their progress, helping them manage their diet and diabetes. Marie now has 20/20 vision in both eyes and her daughter can see clearly from both eyes with glasses.

Carmen shared this with Dr. Marco Robles: "when I returned home and could see, I went outside by myself, one of the children quickly ran up to me yelling, 'no, Carmen you have to go back inside. You will fall and hurt yourself!' I smiled and told him I could see. He did not believe me

and started testing me. I stood there and took in all the colors and my community and described what I had not seen for many years... and then he knew I could see."

These moments are possible because of supporters like you! Please help us continue to provide such life-changing health care and serve those who otherwise have no hope. Thank you for choosing to support us.

Dr Marco Robles, with the assistance of Dr. Kevin Waltz, Karen Frinzi, Nicolle Frinzi, and Laura Ponce, provided cataract, pterygium, and corneal surgeries to twenty-five patients in May and treatment to fifteen patients in June.

We are very excited about a new eye facility that the Robles family will open in Feb of 2020, with the goal of providing eye care to poor patients. As previously mentioned the public health system is closing down all specialty services and forcing medical care into the private sectors. This new eye center will fill this gap.



**Maria at the Hospital de Occidente before her first eye surgery in May 2018.**



**Dr. Marco Robles evaluating Maria before her second cataract surgery.**



**Nutritionist Bianca Ramirez recently evaluating Maria in the CAMO clinic before her second cataract surgery.**





Maria's daughter Carmen before her first eye surgery in May 2018.



Carmen back in CAMO's clinic with the nutritionist Bianca Ramirez doing her medical evaluation before her second cataract surgery.

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS NEEDED!



**Needed:** Musical instruments for the cultural center.

Many students would like to learn music but there are no instruments. Most of the children's families have no resources to buy more than the basic necessities. Look in your closet, it would mean the world to a child.



**PLEASE CHECK YOUR CLOSETS & ATTICS!**



**MANY THANKS TO HELPING HANDS!**

# Honduran Endoscopy Brigade

**Dr Douglas Morgan with his Honduras counterpart Dr. Richardo Dominquez led a Honduran brigade to Tela.**

They have been working together since 1999. Through their work, they have documented the fact that Honduran populations have the second highest incidents of gastric cancer in the world. Their initial study focused on the Mayan population; we are now extending the study to Garífuna adults between the ages of thirty and seventy-five.

This work took CAMO to the north coast of Honduras, to the Hospital of Tela, where we held a free clinic staffed by gastroenterologist Dr Douglas Morgan (USA) and Dr. Ricardo Dominquez (Honduran), along with three Honduran medical residents and program coordinator Lesby Castellanos. Special thanks to the staff of Tela Hospital who assisted with these procedures.

First, the team interviewed approximately two hundred and forty-six adults between thirty and seventy-five years old, to identify those in need of testing. Based on these initial interviews, a total of one hundred and twenty-six patients were selected to receive endoscopies and biopsies, which were then processed at no charge. Finally, the team provided follow-up treatments to those who needed further intervention.



Endoscopy team during their brigade in Tela, Honduras.



## 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



## Tribute to Bruce Robeson DDS.

CAMO is heartbroken at the passing of Bruce Robeson, D.D.S, one of our longest serving volunteers. Bruce started with CAMO back in 1994. Soon after, his wife Pat joined us. Dr. Robeson was part of the negotiation to implement CAMO dental programs with Ministry of Health and partner with the Regional Director of Dental Care of Honduras. This was the initial building block for many years of services and dental care for the children in Honduras. Being an inventor, Dr. Robeson even built very compact dental units for us to use in the rural



areas. He continued to work with CAMO for seventeen years, three of those serving as the President of the Board of Directors. He loved the people of Honduras and he and Pat were a vital part of CAMO for many years. We are so thankful for all that he has done for so many people here and abroad. To say he will be missed by many is a gross understatement. He has left us with a legacy through his passion for dentistry and service to others.



## PREVIOUS EVENTS

# Golf Scramble Results

Thank you all for the roles you played in our Golf Scramble.

We had a lot of fun! The day was beautiful, with no rain and a cool breeze; many volunteers showed up to help our wonderful staff; and as always, The Pines staff were great to work with. The winners were HJ Wenger, Punky Weirick, Todd Fiscus, and Randy Worrel. In second place were Mike Faught, Keith Patterson, Greg Rose, and Joel Sanderson.

Most importantly, through the support of fifty-nine hole sponsors and twenty-six contest, raffle, and meal sponsors, along with the eighteen teams and volunteers, we were able to raise a grand total of \$24,303.95! This allows us to provide a multitude of services, ranging from eye surgery, plastic surgery and neurosurgery, to screening and treatment of children for hearing, vision, dental, and nutritional needs—and much more. On our patients' behalf, thank you for those who joined us for the first time and to the many of you who continue to be loyal supporters.



We appreciate the support of all our golf scramble participants that made the event a great success.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Salsa Sizzle Event

Putting the FUN back into fund raising

This year's Salsa Sizzle will mark the eleventh year for our annual fundraising event! This year's Sizzle will be held on Saturday, August 24, at the Greystone Event Center. The night is filled with live Latin Jazz music, delicious Latin-inspired food, both a live and silent auction, CAMO marketplace, Latin dance lessons from professional instructors, and so much more.

All proceeds from this event will benefit programs and services most in need of funding.

Tickets are now available online (webpage) and by calling our office (330)683-5956

\* \$45 per guest - Casual Attire

\*Dancing only ticket \$10 (9 PM - 11PM)

We hope to see you there!



Ready for some dance movements?  
Check out our upcoming "Salsa Sizzle" fundraising activity.

**Greystone Event Center**  
50 Riffel Road  
Wooster, OH 44691

FOR MORE UPDATES AND INFORMATION ABOUT CAMO  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB PAGE: [WWW.CAMO.ORG](http://WWW.CAMO.ORG), FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM.



## Mark Your Calendar!

- » AUGUST 24 : Salsa Sizzle
- » SEPTEMBER 7 – 12: Wayne County Fair
- » SEPTEMBER 16 – 20: 911 delegation
- » OCTOBER 5 – 13: October Teams

Shipments to  
Honduras:

- » AUGUST
- » OCTOBER



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## Give A Gift That Really Matters!



**Help CAMO continue to provide life-saving and life-changing services in Honduras.** Throughout the year be thoughtful about your purchases and consider investing in something which has an impact. Give the gift of caring by re-imagining gift-giving for yourself, and for your loved ones. You can designate your giving in memory or in honor of someone special. Think about the expensive cup of coffee: one cup could buy a book for our literacy program.

***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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See CAMO's story as it unfolds. Follow **camobringshope** on Instagram



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



Follow **Central American Medical Outreach** on LinkedIn

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP

#### **Make a donation • Host a fundraiser!**

Need ideas? Call the CAMO office or email [camo@camo.org](mailto: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.*