



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



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

Founder's Opinion

Founder and International Director, Kathryn Tschiegg



Neither COVID nor hurricanes nor gloom of night stops these counterparts from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

Twenty-eight years ago this May, the dream that became CAMO was born. I had been home from the Peace Corps for twelve years and was working as an RN, barely making enough to pay off my college loans and support myself. Sitting cross-legged on the floor of the double-wide home I purchased for \$5,000 when I returned from Peace Corp in 1981, I had a nagging desire, a dream of returning in a helpful way, a different way; the dream was so big it seemed like a burden.

Last week I came across a saying: "If your dreams don't scare you, they are not big enough." Now, twenty-eight years later, I am no longer sitting cross-legged on the floor and those joints are not so limber anymore—but my dream is no longer a burden. Instead, it has become the exhilaration of my life. Looking at CAMO's sustainable development, it is more clear than ever that this model of building capacity at the service site will endure pandemics, hurricanes, and many other challenges.

We have seen countless groups, built on the popular "in and out" model of many service organizations, whose staff are now unable to travel; as a result, people are no longer being served.

By contrast, CAMO has not stopped serving people; in fact, we are one of few international medical/education/community developmental organizations that is still fully functional. Why is this? Simply put: thanks to our focus on sustainable development of counterpart relationships and of programs focused on the needs of the people we serve.

Today, our services are not dependent on USA volunteers traveling down to Honduras to do the job. Instead, CAMO has fifty-one Honduran employees, each very professional. We have Honduran counterparts, in all our areas of service, who volunteer their professional services weekly in governance, leadership, committees, education, etc.

For twenty-eight years, CAMO has made a difference every day by staying on course and focusing on the long-term sustainable model.

In the USA, too, we continue to provide support services with in-kind donations and supplemental funding for disaster relief and specialty items.

IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS

Volunteers
44 in Honduras / 48 in the USA
(warehouse, committees, and boards)

Patients served
27,392

Boxes of medical supplies
processed and shipped
2,853

Pieces of medical equipment
donated in the USA and Honduras
237



Top left: Kathy (middle) with Dina and Argentina.

Top right: Kathy's double-wide mobile home, 1981.

Left to right: Students from Las Crucitas rural school, supported by CAMO's Literacy program, after receiving their new textbooks and school supplies.

Fundación CAMO Honduras Director José Bautista with Delmer López, age 4, patient from our neurosurgery program, next to his dad after receiving a new wheelchair.

Orphanage Remodeling Project

CAMO has supported the orphanage across the street in many ways across the years.

When our Neurosurgical counterpart Dr. JC Tabet and his wife Mary visited, they were so moved by the one hundred girls who live in this facility that they launched a campaign to fund improvements. Three years ago, thanks to the Tabets, we completed a new computer room and set up computers for the girls' use.

During the inauguration, the Tabets were shown other areas of the orphanage in dire need of repairs: because of insufficient drainage, during the rainy season the kitchen was regularly flooded with sewage water, while flooding in the laundry room made it difficult to keep clothing and bedding clean and dry.

Special thanks to JC & Mary Tabet, who have provided funding to rebuild and remodel the laundry and kitchen areas; once these renovations are complete, too, the girls can be trained in culinary skills as they grow into young adults. Additional thanks are due to Architect Iris Hernandez and Chef Patrick Perichon for donating their time to work on flow and design of the new spaces.

Now that plans have been approved, construction has begun! This project will take us one year to complete. Chris Helbing and Helbing Supplies in New Philadelphia, OH are donating the kitchen stoves, ovens, mixers, grills, hoods, tables, and chairs, and the total cost of construction will be \$105,000.

Special thanks to JC & Mary Tabet, who have provided funding to rebuild and remodel the laundry and kitchen areas.



Dr. JC Tabet and his wife during the inauguration of the computer room at the girls' orphanage.



CAFÉ CAMO
WAKE UP WITH CHARITY
IN YOUR HEART!

PURCHASE AT [SHOP.CAMO.ORG](https://shop.camo.org)

Select the **SHOP** link and we'll take care of the rest.

CAFÉ CAMO can also be purchased at:

- CAMO offices
- Shisler's Cheese House
- Lehman's Hardware in Kidron
- RoomScapes in Wooster
- Runion Furniture

STAY CONNECTED

For more updates and information about CAMO, please visit our web page:

www.camo.org,
Facebook or Instagram

From Yeny Garcia, Who Was Raised in the Hogar de Ninas:

This morning I was reflecting on the 3D pictures of what the kitchen and laundry areas would look like once they are remodeled and equipped, comparing them to current photos of these areas as they are now, with the mold, moisture, and water problems of an old house, built around 1959 with adobe and stones.

I then recalled all the years I spent in those spaces with my friends—who are more like sisters—preparing meals, washing dishes, laughing and joking as we baked the bread for the whole week (a usual activity for each Saturday) and making baleadas and tamales for special occasions like Christmas and New Year's Eve. My memories went back to those days, precious to me and my friends and all the moments we shared and learned from in that kitchen (not that I am saying I am a good cook, but I cook!).

I observed the 3D pictures and smiled as I imagined what this project would mean for future generations at the Hogar de Niñas, the home where I grew up along with another 50-60 girls, many of whom I have seen take their own career paths and start their families now on their own. With the support and mentorship of some friends like Team Up for Honduras, Hogar de Niñas was the home that taught us how to live, because our families couldn't do so for whatever reason.

I have no words to describe what this project means for me, the girls that have graduated from the Hogar de Niñas, and the future generations that will use these areas. I am sure that all the moments we shared there, the friends we made, and the kind and loving volunteers we met shaped me and my friends-sisters into who we are today. I can only say, thank you for all the little things you have done for others, all the little things you have done for the Hogar de Niñas. Thank you Dr. Tabet and Mary Tabet for funding this project, I can't imagine the sacrifices you made to do it, but I know it comes from your heart. I also thank Kathy for



Yeny García with one of her sisters after a heartwarming visit to the orphanage she grew up in.

her commitment and passion in serving the less privileged, and the CAMO staff for carrying out this project and all the support you have given through the years, through medical and dental brigades, since I was little. Thank you to all the friends and volunteers who have and continue to support the girls despite the distance.

What do I see in the little things? I see belonging and sacrifices, I see kindness, and compassion, I see the commitment and willingness to serve others, but above all, I see love...love that must come from above. Thank you for passing it along.

As difficult as 2020 was for the world, CAMO remained strong. Each and every one of you is part of this story. True faith involves doing all you can and letting God take care of the rest. The model proved itself in 2020, but God had his hand in it daily since before its inception.

*“What do I see in the little things?
I see belonging and sacrifices,
I see kindness, and compassion,
I see the commitment and willingness to serve others, but above all, I see love...”*

—Yeny Garcia

Literacy Program

In Honduras the education system is a broken one, creating a tremendous need.

Children and adults in poor and isolated communities lack access to technology, so their only way to learn is through textbooks. The reality is:

- Of the 13 schools Honduras CAMO staff visited, only three have phone signals to receive phone calls and the internet signal is poor.
- The majority of households do not have the resources to pay for wi-fi, much less phones and computers.
- On average, only 16% of children in these schools have access to a phone to receive homework assignments from teachers during the pandemic. Teachers had to walk door to door to bring education to their children.
- Illiteracy among parents is 70%.
- The Honduras government does not provide any quality teaching materials for children or teachers.
- High quality textbooks make a measurable difference, as demonstrated by the results already achieved by the Santillana Textbooks distributed last year by CAMO Honduras: “The books are very easy to understand and provide access to quality learning; even with the pandemic, we saw great progress with the 1st and 2nd grades that we did not see with the other grades, which did not have the books. Especially in the areas of reading and writing.” (Director of Corquin Elementary School Professor Jorge Lopez.)



At top of page: Yesmy Girón, in charge of CAMO's education program in Honduras, giving a student her new textbooks. Above: Kids happily checking out their new textbooks and the school supplies donated by Danilo Cares.

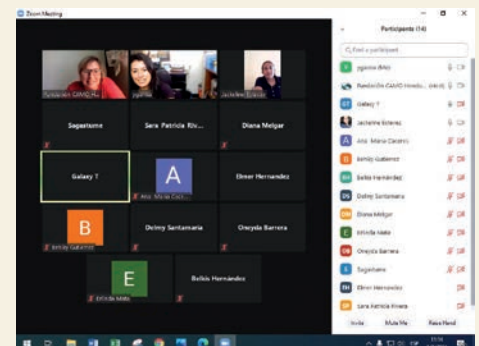
In February, CAMO Honduras staff distributed 1,100 new textbooks for Spanish, Math, Social Studies, and Science for third- and fourth-grade students attending the 13 rural schools supported by our literacy program. Funding was provided by Third World Books, Global Mission Action Group, St. Paul's Cleveland Hts., the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio Grants, and individual donors. Danilo Care partnered with us to provide backpacks containing school supplies and masks for each child.

Last year, we provided textbooks for the first and second grades. This program has become a pilot program and we see the impact that it is having. The teachers are pleading with us to advance the project more rapidly to purchase the 5th and 6th-grade textbooks this year instead of waiting until 2022, as planned. If you are able to assist us with funding, please make your check out to the “Literacy Program”; the cost to supply two full grades with textbooks is \$22,000.

Teacher's Training Through Zoom

We want to thank Kristin Bourdage, Ph.D. from the Department of Education at Otterbein University, for the recent online workshop she provided to teachers from the 13 rural schools supported by CAMO's literacy program. This workshop trained teachers in developing lesson plans and involving parents in learning activities.

A screenshot of Kristin's online workshop, via zoom, with the teachers from the 13 rural schools supported by CAMO.



Help on the Way

Working hand-in-hand, CAMO USA and CAMO Honduras are preparing building sites, cleaning rubble, and staging supplies to be sure we are ready for the Hurricane Relief container dispatched January 21, 2021.

Our staff in Honduras has already bought cement, wood, and iron for the construction of hurricane shelters, and work will begin as soon as the container arrives.

Working with the cities' leadership to identify the families in the most need, Honduras Director Jose Bautista has selected 618 families who will receive temporary unit shelters, mattresses, food, and essential survival items. CAMO USA donors, in response to these epic disasters, have provided us with relief items: our Hurricane container includes materials donated by:

- Seaman Corporation located in Wooster (\$52,000): PVC material
- Gerber Lumber located in Kidron (\$10,000): screws & tools
- Weldmaster located in Navarre (\$18,500): welding equipment for the PVC material

We would like to send out a special thank you to Dick Seaman and Marc Norman of Seaman Corporation, Jeff Sponseller of Miller Weldmaster, and Eldon Gerber of Gerber Lumber and their staff for making this donation and shipment possible.

The container also includes three hundred mattresses purchased

with donated funds. The container arrived in Honduras on March 14 and was released from customs on March 19.

Our staff in Honduras has been relocated to the works sites to prepare the cement pads and footers for the shelters. Two more containers of relief supplies have been dispatched over the last two months as well.

We have now collected over 600 buckets for our bucket of care campaign—but we still need 400 more to reach our goal of 1,000 buckets! These buckets will make an enormous difference: 618 families, currently homeless in the wake of the hurricane, will have food for a full month, as well as medicine, survival supplies, and a safe and sanitary place to cook and lay their heads. These 618 families represent 3,700 people whose suffering will be eased and whose hope for a brighter future will be restored. We would like to extend a very special thank you to Wend Collective for their donation to assist with building the shelters and getting families into sanitary conditions.

While the Hurricane and Covid relief continue, our programs in Honduras continue to operate, with health services being provided daily—all thanks to you and your heart of service. We thank each one of you.



Clockwise from top left corner: Our volunteer Suzie Culler at CAMO's warehouse after filling some buckets of care! Our US staff and volunteers loading the building materials in our hurricane relief container. Our employee Dagoberto Pineda, relocated in El Progreso Yoro Honduras, welding the bases for building the shelters. 3,502 iron rods bought for the construction of shelters. Stacking the wood bought for the shelters.

Our Patient Stories

Yeny Perez

Can you imagine giving birth in complete darkness and not being able to see your beloved baby after it is born? Such a heartbreaking scene to imagine. Well, this is exactly what happened to Yeny Perez (20) who lost her vision due to cataracts in both of her eyes during her pregnancy.

Living in an isolated rural community in Lempira, coming from a poor family and in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, she lost all hope of regaining her vision. She was unable to work to support her family and couldn't even do the things she most enjoys, such as cooking. After giving birth, the hardest part was not being able to take care of her baby boy. Her mother and aunt desperately looked for ways to help Yeny.

“I can finally see my baby and bathe him.”

The first glimmer of hope arose when they learned of CAMO's eye care program, led by the ophthalmologist Dr. Marco Robles. Despite the pandemic, CAMO never stopped working hard to continue its medical services. Yeny's family found us in December, when our program was just finishing a new state-of-the-art operating room at the Robles Ophthalmology Center. After learning about her case, CAMO immediately scheduled Yeny for surgery. On December 7, Dr. Marco Robles restored her vision.

“I can finally see my baby and bathe him,” said Yeny, with a smile on her face while breastfeeding her baby during our visit to her home. Such a miracle to help a mother see her baby for the first time. Such miracles can only be performed thanks to your support.



Ophthalmologist Dr. Marco Robles performing Yeny's cataract surgery in the new state of the art operating room.



Yeny breastfeeding her baby after finally being able to see his face.

José Ernesto López

Every Wednesday, CAMO's diabetic clinic in Honduras treats patients of low economic resources thanks to our volunteer and program counterpart, Dr. Vladimir Irias. That's when we stumbled on José Ernesto's case, who besides being diabetic has kidney failure. Since he couldn't afford to go to a private clinic, he started experiencing complications and his foot became necrotic. Luckily, he contacted CAMO in time, and he has been receiving treatment since February of this year. After just three appointments, his foot has greatly improved.

Dr. Vladimir Irias treating a diabetic foot at CAMO's diabetic clinic in Honduras.





Brian Pineda, Gloria's son, checking Marlyn's ear.



**Fundación CAMO Honduras
Director José Bautista, Marlyn,
Gloria Tábora and Marlen Mena
(Marlyn's mother).**

Hearing Program Success!

Marlyn's mother suspected she was deaf when she was two years old, but Marlyn was not properly diagnosed until her mother took her to CAMO's audiometry lab (the only one in Santa Rosa de Copán). Thanks to Gloria, the audiometrist, we were able to arrange a trip to Spain for a cochlear implant.

After returning to Honduras, Marlyn received language therapy and CAMO audiometry services. Now she is 15 years old, a bright student who hears very well and has no need to read lips behind a protective mask. Thanks to CAMO's model, she continues her follow-up treatment with Gloria Tabora, whose son Brian is now training to become her replacement. Gloria has been with us since 1996.



Left: Fundación CAMO Honduras Director José Bautista with Adriana Nicolle after she received her new wheelchair.

Adriana Nicolle Murcia

Our patient Adriana Nicolle Murcia, age 10, visited our facilities in Honduras along with her mom to get her new wheelchair. We collect wheelchairs from kind donors and through a wheelchair drive at Kidron Kars every September. Despite the pandemic, we have not stopped shipping to Honduras to give the gift of mobility to those in need. Adriana is also receiving treatment in CAMO's neurology, nutrition, and dental programs.

Multiple programs working hand-in-hand to meet the need.



Blanca Lidia

Do you remember Blanca Lidia? A year ago, she was bitten by a poisonous snake while washing clothes in a river near her home. CAMO supported her family with food, homecare supplies, nutritional supplements, debridement of bedsores, financial support for a CAT scan, ongoing evaluation, application of orthotics, and many home visits to provide therapy while training and supporting her family in her care.

Then the pandemic came ... but despite the difficulties, our team kept providing Blanca Lidia with physical and nutritional treatment. Her daughter has been a champion in her daily care and therapy. Now, a year later, we can see a great improvement in Blanca Lidia and a family with renewed hopes.

A recovered Blanca Lidia, with her daughter, during one of her most recent appointments at CAMO.

Bringing Professional Talents to an Underserved World

CAMO Volunteers Recognized by their Professions



It is no secret the volunteers at CAMO are extraordinary for their dedication to improving the quality of life in Honduras by strengthening health care systems and promoting sustainable community development. With compassion and selflessness, they provide expertise and guidance to those who would not easily obtain it otherwise. Deb Marino, PhD Nutrition, Joe Marino, MD, and Tim Larson, Respiratory Therapist (RT) have recently received prestigious awards in their professions to recognize their volunteer work with CAMO.

Tim has been awarded the Koga Medal from the International Council of Respiratory Care. It is given to a professional in the field who demonstrates “excellence in promoting the globalization of quality respiratory care.” Created in 2007, the award honors the late Dr. Toshihiko Koga from Japan, highly regarded for his efforts in ensuring the highest quality of respiratory care throughout the world.

Tim embodies this spirit in many ways. A volunteer with CAMO since 1994, he has spent countless “days off” inspecting the quality of donated equipment and providing guidance and education to Honduran medical professionals over the phone, video, and email. RT as a profession does not exist in Honduras. Thus, Tim has used his “vacation time” to travel to the country annually for 25 years to provide hands-on training to nurses and physicians. Respiratory care is desperately needed in Honduras, as poor living and working conditions cause many to develop detrimental medical conditions. As CAMO works to develop the first RT educational program in Honduras, Tim has been integral to the planning team in creating the curriculum and selecting lab equipment.

Deb and Joe Marino started volunteering with CAMO in 2010. Since then, they have created an entire Nutrition Program that is well on its way to becoming sustainable. Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics awarded the Marinos The Outstanding Contribution

by a Non-Member for going above and beyond what is expected and to recognize their significant contribution to the profession and the association. The Marinos very humbly state that their work would not be a success without the holistic approach that is the foundation of CAMO in Honduras - every program works together to identify needs and to then create sustainable solutions. They also credit their Ohio nutrition colleagues who offer time and valuable expertise to help address unique nutrition concerns. Brian Miller is one, whose experience in public health, health education, and statistics has provided essential support and analytical skills.

CAMO’s Nutrition Program is the only such program in Western Honduras, an area with the highest malnutrition rates in Latin America at over 50%. The program is directed by Bianca Ramirez, a licensed nutritionist from Honduras.

In response to tremendous need, Bianca provides outreach to hospitals, schools, daycare centers, nursing homes, and outlying communities, and holds a regular nutrition clinic where she performs a nutritional assessment, prescribes a plan of medical nutrition therapy, and provides ongoing follow-up and guidance for malnourished individuals and their families. She also develops educational programs and gives presentations (live and virtual) to health professionals throughout the region.

Bianca and the Marinos are constantly communicating and strategizing approaches to nutritional problems and to the changing realities brought on by the coronavirus pandemic and two devastating hurricanes.

Despite the multitude of challenges in Honduras since CAMO’s inception, volunteers have helped create programs like respiratory care and nutrition to provide Hondurans with a healthier future. Helping others helps ourselves, for as Deb Marino states, “compassionate caring is every bit as nourishing to the soul as real food is to the body.”



Left: Local and International volunteer Tim Larson installing ventilators and providing continuing education in their use to nurses at Hospital de Occidente. Right: Local and International volunteer Deborah Marino, with her Honduran counterpart Bianca Ramirez, checking the nutritional state of children at the Daycare supported by CAMO.

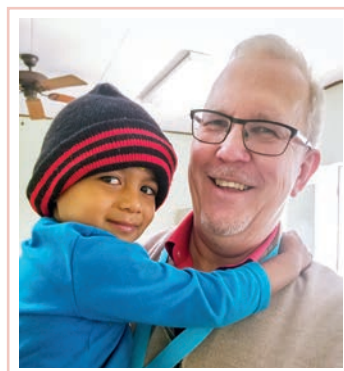


SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE TO CAMO

1. Make a one-time donation, recurring donation, or honor a loved one.
2. Sponsor a CAMO service: change a life by sponsoring school books for \$20, brain surgery for \$500, or somewhere in between.
3. Make an IRA-to-Charity/Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to CAMO to satisfy the required minimum distribution of your tax-deferred retirement account.
4. Make a gift to CAMO's organization endowment fund at the Wayne County Community Foundation at waynecountycommunityfoundation.org or The Columbus Foundation at columbusfoundation.org
5. Give a gift of stock.
6. Leave a legacy gift to CAMO through a bequest or will. Discuss with your estate planner, or speak with the Wayne County Community Foundation or Lisa Lynch at The Columbus Foundation. columbusfoundation.org/the-giving-store/nonprofits/



PLANNED GIVING



Ron Taggart,
CAMO Board President,
during one of his visits
to Honduras

REMEMBER CAMO IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Give a gift that keeps on giving: a planned bequest to CAMO is a way to guarantee that the people of Honduras will receive the help they need for years to come.

Ron Taggart, CAMO Board President, states, "CAMO saves lives and I want saving lives and helping those less fortunate than me to be part of my legacy. By remembering CAMO in my will, even though I'll be gone, I'll still be giving in a very effective way. That makes me happy."

Current Campaign

GIVE A BUCKET OF CARE

Join our cause and donate today to provide a bucket of care with basic survival needs.

Donations can be dropped off at 322 Westwood Ave, Orrville, OH 44667 or call the office for more information. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Bucket of Care Campaign Chair, Mary Ann Roberts and volunteers Susie Culler, Mary Saylor, and Board member Beth Miller, who have all made countless calls and devoted countless hours to the delivery, pickup, and packing of the buckets. Harvest Care is providing unlimited 5-gallon empty buckets. Lowes of Wooster donated 50 buckets.

We are over 600 buckets completed and still counting. Our goal is 1000.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 20 AND OVER BUCKET CHAMPIONS

Kidron Mennonite Church	250
Cindy Mullet and friends of Church of the Cross	125
Smithville Brethren	37
Social Ministry Team of Zion Lutheran Church	50
Sacred Heart Church in Wadsworth	44
Saint Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Doylestown	25
Wayne County Youth Foundation	22
FFA Northwestern	23
FFA Norwayne	150
FFA Firelands	60
Martin Creek Mennonite Church of Millersburg	25
Covenant Church Akron	20



We thank each and every one of you! Shelter, food, supplies, and medicine would all be unattainable for these families. You have made an impact beyond words; you are the glimmer of hope we all need in life.

Many individuals and still counting!



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on our events please visit our website at:
www.camo.org/get-involved/fundraising-activities

Food for Healing

The month of May will be dedicated to the virtual campaign for the fight against hunger and malnutrition; please join Deb & Joe Marino in this campaign and support CAMO's nutrition program, which continues to be a matter of life and health for many Honduran families. The needs are especially critical during the Covid-19 pandemic and the following two devastating hurricanes. This year our virtual campaign seeks your support for this essential program.



Golf Scramble

Love to golf and have a heart for mission? Then this is the opportunity for you! Join us on June 12, 2021 at The Pines Golf Club, Orrville for a day of friendly competition and prizes.



Salsa Sizzle

CAMO is optimistic about having the Salsa Sizzle as a live event in 2021 at the Greystone Event Center, Wooster. Hope to see you in person on September 17 this year for dancing, music and great food!



- » SHIPMENTS ARE DISPATCHED EVERY TEN WEEKS
- » DAILY PACKING AT THE WAREHOUSE
- » TEAMS PROJECTED FOR FEBRUARY 2022

thank you

Special thanks to **Jennifer Hayward**, Professor of English at the College of Wooster, for volunteering to edit this publication, and to staff **Heidi Hernandez, Fannie Tejada** and **Yeny Garcia** in Honduras who assisted with the collection and confirmation of information.

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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 that has an impact. Give the gift of caring by re-imagining gift-giving for yourself and for your loved ones. Think about that expensive cup of coffee: one cup could buy a book for our literacy program. Honor a friend or family member by making a memorial gift.

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!

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.