



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



Summer 2021 • Volume 30 • Issue 2

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

USA Executive Director/Founder's Opinion

by Kathryn Tschiegg

Over 28 years ago I was with my pastor traveling to Michigan with a child from Honduras needing neurocranial surgery.

He asked me, "What are you going to do when your dream snowballs—how are you going to manage it?" On reflection, I realize that we've achieved our success and growth through a combination of faith, common sense, realism, and practical solutions: we have tackled each moment, day, month and year pragmatically while believing in the strength and power of our volunteers and partners. Together, we've achieved miracles.

Honduras Update

Our Honduran staff of 52 permanent employees work daily to find solutions for their people. José Bautista, the Executive Director, oversees the management of a great executive staff that includes Operations, Administration, Education, Grants/Community Development, Bio-medical, and Management of our for-profit company. Our Honduran staff are dedicated to our services to the poor, they see things that are difficult to witness on a daily basis. Despite severe challenges, they never lose hope and in fact see the difference they are making every day. We are blessed to have such great, talented, respectful people working for us in Honduras.

USA Update

In the USA, our purpose is to support the programs, inventory and capital projects of Honduras. We would like to welcome James Carpenter as our new Operations



Left to Right: Volunteer Mary Ann Roberts, Staff Kat Amstuz, Volunteer Larry Amstuz, Staff Max Gerber, Staff James Carpenter, looking happy after loading the 40-foot container for shipment to Honduras.

Manager, overseeing the areas of logistics, purchasing & sales, and bookkeeping. James comes to us with more than 15 years of experience in the non-profit realm, most recently serving as the Vice President of Operations for Goodwill Industries. The Executive Director continues to be responsible for all international travelers and coordination of teams, USA donors, and fundraising.

In this newsletter, you'll read about CAMO's practical aid, practical care, and practical approach. This pragmatic philosophy has led to thousands getting care for a fraction of the cost and resources required by other systems, programs, and groups. Their added costs are due to inefficiency and a broken model. It is time

we break out of the bureaucratic, costly, ineffective models of international service and stay focused on human needs, met through implementing a realistic, practical approach. This is the only way that services will actually reach those in need.

***Thank you for being
part of the solution
for thousands and
for your partnership
with CAMO.***

Reminders of Why We Serve

This has been a very emotional quarter as we see the videos documenting the families receiving emergency relief in the wake of the hurricanes that swept through Central America this year. *We are reminded of why we serve.*

At the end of June, Jose Bautista, CAMO Honduras Director, along with two other staff members spent three days in El Progreso Yoro delivering supplies to families. They traveled through muddy roads to get to the villages most highly affected by the hurricanes. These were hard working but highly fulfilling days, with little rest but great reward in seeing each family with a big smile and tears of joy in their eyes after receiving the Bucket of Care that all of you donated; each one contains sheets, towels, plates, cooking utensils, buckets to carry water, and food.

Earlier, families were given shelters and beds. Each family had already made their shelter so cozy, with their few belongings, and they were so excited to add new supplies. Many said that the shelter and supplies were the first donations they had received after losing everything to the hurricanes. Their gratitude was real and heartwarming; their stories are a testimony to the human spirit and strength and should cause us to contemplate how very good we have it here and how thankful we should be.

The testimonies, without fail, first demonstrate their faith, then their gratitude. Here are just a few of their many words of thankfulness:



José Bautista, Fundación CAMO
Executive Director, on a visit to El Progreso Yoro, delivering Buckets of Care to the families affected by the hurricanes.

“Very grateful for the project that was given to us, since we had never received such aid and now you have given us a roof to live with my family, thank you and blessings!”

— Doña Dilcia Vanegas, La Núñez Village, Progreso Yoro



Before (at right): Dilcia Antunez house after hurricanes Eta and Iota.
After (above): Dilcia Antunez and her family after receiving their temporary unit shelter built by CAMO.



“First of all, to thank God for putting you in our path, without His help we would continue without a roof, thanks CAMO Foundation.”

— María Yolanda Miranda Contreras, Village Finca Progreso Yoro



Before: Claudia Vanessa built a house out of branches after the hurricanes destroyed everything.

After: Claudia Vanessa, a single mother, happy to have a new home (temporary unit shelter built by CAMO) to live with her children.

The staff in Honduras have done a remarkable job of meeting family needs through making evaluations, clearing land, and resolving logistical problems (many sites have no electricity and are not accessible by vehicles). With a lot of sweat, staff and recipients hand carry the gravel, sand, rebar, cement, wood, material, etc. to each site. Even with these challenges, the materials for the cement pads, family shelters, and basic supplies have been staged at each worksite. Two family units per day are being built by masons as the advance team; they first pour concrete floors and then carpenters raise the structure.

In addition to this hurricane relief, with COVID still raging in Honduras, we felt it was a priority to restore and furnish the Public Health Center Amapa, El Progreso Yoro: It benefits 22 communities, serving an average of 30 patients a day. This reopened on March 29th.

“I am happy for the gift that has been given to me, God has touched your heart so that we can receive His blessings.”

— María Santos Chirino Moreno, San Isidro Village, Progreso Yoro



Tomás combing his wife's hair. This comb was part of the items donated inside the bucket.

Helena, 95, and her husband Tomás, 71, received a temporary unit shelter and a Bucket of Care with basic survival needs.

AGAIN, WE HAVE TO THANK THE USA FOR IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM COMPANIES.

- Seaman Corporation located in Wooster (\$52,000): PVC material
- Gerber Lumber located in Kidron (\$10,000): screws and tools
- Weldmaster located in Navarre (\$18,500): welding equipment for the PVC material
- Chris Helbling, owner of Helbling's Supply: over 500 industrial frying pans
- Wend Collective and individual donors: financial support of the shelters
- Many churches and individuals: Buckets of Care
- Harvest Call: the majority of the clean buckets

As of July 1, 2021, we have completed 171 concrete pads and 81 shelters, and cost per shelter is \$1,200. 400 Buckets of Care have arrived and 600 more are on the way. 300 mattresses have arrived and are being given to each family on completion of their family unit. In all, we have 439 families receiving shelters and plan to complete the project by the end of 2021 (assuming there are no more hurricanes!)

Orphanage Repairs: Sewage Running Through the Old Kitchen and Laundry

On any given day at the orphanage after a rain, the kitchen and laundry area would be flooded with “agua negra” or sewage water.

To think of little girls eating and working in these areas was unacceptable, so we have started the renovations of the orphanage’s kitchen, laundry and cafeteria. We have had a close relationship with these girls, as our international volunteers find their smiling faces and enthusiasm for life endearing. Presently CAMO employs four of these young women; they are the best, a true joy to have as employees.

The construction started May 1, 2021 after one year of design and approval. We are so appreciative of the funding provided by Dr. J.C. Tabet and Mary Tabet. At the top of page 5 (*right*) are drawings of how the space will look on completion, which is projected for January of 2022.

Chris Helbling of Helbling Supplies will be assisting with the kitchen and cafeteria equipment, including tables and chairs. We still need help with industrial washers and dryers; please contact the office if you are interested in assisting us with this need.



Clockwise: The orphanage girls in the kitchen helping clean the beans for dinner. Some of the girls making tortillas for dinner. Current laundry area, while the new one is being built. The girls at the orphanage enjoying their afternoon snack, “arroz con leche.”



Trade School Advances

Despite the restrictions due to COVID-19, construction continued, allowing us to advance with expansion of the Technical School of Arts and Trades of the West (ETAOO).

To date, we have 75% of the project funded. These funds were provided by the Woods Family Foundation through CAMO, by the Banco de Occidente, and through the Secretary of State in the Offices of Community Development, Water and Sanitation of Honduras (SEDECOAS). We are still in need of \$250,000 to complete the project.

We are unable to hold classes in person at this facility, but we have continued with these efforts:

- Follow-up in mixed modality of students enrolled in the 2021 courses, with the goal of obtaining a provisional permit from the Municipality of Santa Rosa de Copán and the CODEM-SRC.
- Searching for funds to equip the new computing space for technological development, as well as the data network system for ETAOO. The project is estimated to cost around \$ 35,448.67.
- Development of courses in Sales and Inventory.
- Completion of training in basic computer science of young people from the Quezailica community, Santa Rosa de Copán, who, due to the pandemic and restrictions in the educational sector, had not been able to complete computer classes.
- Development and implementation of six technical courses, which will include enrollment of young adults from the Santa Rosa area, pending approval of a grant for \$12,511.



Top: Partial view of the second floor. Bottom: View of the first floor (night shot to test the lights).

The Voices of Our Patients

Dermatology Program

Can you imagine how hard it is to have a rare condition and to live in a poor, isolated community without access to basic medical services? For many people we serve, this is their reality. CAMO has built a unique model of services to address gaps in Honduras's public health care system. CAMO's programs integrate, assessing all the needs of each patient so we can serve not just one, but all of the aspects of their illness. Without CAMO, these services would never be accessible to the poor.

A case in point: two sisters, Marleny (19) and Isis (13), are from the rural community of Yusquin, La Iguala Lempira, Honduras. Both have Xeroderma pigmentosum, a genetic disorder that affects the skin and may cause eye and hearing problems. They are receiving medical attention from Dr. Cinthia Espinoza, the counterpart of CAMO's Dermatology Program, and by Gloria Tábor, Audiologist, who conducted a review and evaluation of their ears.

In addition, the sisters will receive medical care in CAMO's ophthalmology, nutrition, dental, and psychology programs. To give a better life to these sisters is only possible with your support. Thank you to everyone who has helped us with their time, money, donations, and prayers.



Left: Gloria Tábor, CAMO's Audiologist, checking the sisters' ears.

Right: Sisters Marleny (19) and Isis (13) with dermatologist Dr. Cinthia Espinoza (in the middle).

Nutrition Program

Edward Flores is a little 4-year-old boy who lives in extreme poverty. Due to his immediate family's lack of food and resources, he was given to his aunt, already suffering from malnutrition. His aunt, recognizing his condition, brought him in to see CAMO's nutritionist, Bianca Ramirez. When she first met him, he couldn't walk because malnutrition had caused edema (swelling) in his stomach and feet; he was diagnosed with Kwashiorkor syndrome (deficiency of protein in the diet). Training and supplements were given to Edward's aunt, who has been diligent in caring for her nephew.

In less than one month, we saw the edema go down, listlessness decrease and his personality begin to shine. With nutritional supplements and coaching from our nutritionist, too, he finally started to walk! He loves to play with his siblings and run after the chickens at his aunt's home. CAMO has supported this family with the donation of nutritional supplements and much needed medical appointments.

We are seeing more and more poverty, which forces parents to find alternative care for their children. The money we raised for the "Food for Healing Campaign" in May will help us with continued support of families suffering from lack of food. Thank you to all who helped with this campaign. Special thanks to Harvest Call for providing us with 100 five gallon buckets of food per shipment.



Clockwise: CAMO's nutritionist, Bianca Ramirez, measuring little Edward at Fundación CAMO's clinic. Ramirez, on a visit to Edward's house. Little Edward finally walking around his home after nutritional intervention.

Cervical Cancer Program

Jenny Elizabeth couldn't believe it; she had lost her home due to the two hurricanes. Now—with no home, no belongings, and no income—she was told she had cervical cancer. It was too much to bear. Single with two children dependent on her and caring for two nephews and two nieces, one with disabilities, she was overwhelmed with sadness and hopelessness.

Nohely Giron, a member of the Municipality of El Progreso and CAMO's work team for the hurricane relief project, learned about Jenny Elizabeth's case and drove four hours to bring her to our cervical cancer program in Santa Rosa de Copán. There, we were able to treat her with cryotherapy. At her later follow-up appointment, she was cancer-free. That same week she received a temporary shelter unit built by CAMO.

One day as CAMO staff supervised construction at our shelter project sites, Jenny approached with a shy voice, but with a smile, thanking us for renewing her hope in life again. As she told us her story, tears began to run down her face; she thanked God for a new opportunity to live and to care for her family and for the chance to continue to care for her nieces and nephews while her sister goes out to work in a rice mill. As she dried her tears, her eyes were full of hope and gratitude.

Now with a roof over her head and her health, Jenny has hope—and what greater gift in life is there than to restore hope. Thank you for making this possible.



Top: Jenny cleaning and doing the dishes at her new home.
Bottom: Jenny with her nieces and nephews.

Ophthalmology

Ever Cortez Cruz, 11 years old, lives in a rural isolated village with no electricity. On a dark night, his mother sent him to the village's grocery shop to get supplies for dinner. Running to the store through completely dark streets, Ever stumbled. He pierced his eye with barbed wire and instantly lost sight in that eye. With great effort, and no economic resources, his family took him the next day to the public hospital in Santa Rosa de Copan, where he was sent to CAMO's eye care program. Dr. Marco Robles, counterpart of our eye care program, performed a vitrectomy surgery and saved his eye.

After the surgery, and in tears, Ever was so happy that his eye didn't hurt anymore and he could see again. "I am happy that I can see, I'll be able to continue doing my homework." If it weren't for this program with state-of-the-art technology and specialized doctors, Ever would have completely lost his eye at such a young age, permanently affecting his future. Great job!



Left: Ever a few hours before his surgery at CAMO's eye care program. **Right:** Ever weeks after the surgery, posing with his mother at their home.



Partnership with the Ministry of Health and International Bank of Development

On August 1, 2020, CAMO was selected by the International Bank of Development (IBD) to administrate and manage over 1.6 million dollars.

The objective is to strengthen the first and second level of care networks, facilitating timely care to the population; specifically, we will use methods for epidemiological surveillance in order to prevent further spread of COVID-19, contain transmission, and improve access to care for suspected and positive cases of COVID-19 in the departments of Copan, Ocotepeque and Lempira. All of these efforts will be built on principles of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and equality.

Through this project, CAMO reached a population of approximately one million, employed 265 doctors and nurses, and trained 384 professionals in respiratory therapy, mechanical ventilation, use of CPAP-BiPap, and intensive care in five hospitals in the western and northern Usi region of Honduras.

Using a combination of contracted and permanent staff, we provided 57,732 home visits for testing of COVID-19. Triage centers provided services to an additional 15,606 patients, while in the hospitals, our staff cared for 8,731 patients, of which 734 were on ventilators. The project ended June 30, 2021.

CONCLUSIONS from former Vice Minister of Health and Regional Director Dr. Carlos Claudino.

Some conclusions can be drawn from the experience in this co-management modality between the CAMO Foundation and public health institutions:

“The formal relationship between private non-profit institutions and public institutions is feasible and results in improvements in efficiency and timeliness in the delivery of services, and in transparency in the execution of public funds, without increasing the costs of operation.”

“The efficiency in the administration of the funds allowed more of the programmed inputs to be acquired, the hiring of more human resources and more services to be provided.”

The team of doctors and nurses during visits to rural communities to provide medical services and check patients with Covid-19 symptoms.





Nutrition Program

The CAMO Nutrition Program continues to be a matter of life and health for many Honduran families. The needs are especially critical during the Covid-19 pandemic. Your support has been incredible and we were able to raise \$21,594.

Many people can be pulled out of starvation with these funds.



Wheelchair Drive

Used wheelchairs in good condition can be dropped off at Kidron Cars August 26-30. Many thanks to Gordon Amstutz and Bayne Amstutz for providing this drop off site.

thank you



PLANNED GIVING

CAMO is grateful to Martha Junkin for her annual support of our mission. Martha, or “Marty,” is also leaving a part of her legacy to CAMO. In 1995, she and her husband created a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) with shares of Premier Industrial stock, gifted to them over 30 years ago by an aunt. We are so pleased that Martha has named CAMO a beneficiary of the principal (the income from which has nearly doubled the original investment).

“I live very simply by choice,” explains Martha; “I grew up in a very simple home, my mom was Mennonite and my father Lutheran.” Martha wants to honor Kathy Tschiegg as a powerful witness to her faith. “I can’t think of another person who makes a stronger testimonial about how God calls us. Ever since I heard her story about being haunted by the number of babies she took to the morgue during the Peace Corps—babies that should have lived—I knew I wanted to help CAMO.”

Having lived her entire life in Wayne County, Martha has devoted her life to volunteering and caregiving for family members, including a disabled son, and “I enjoy making a difference. I don’t want to wait to experience heaven after I’m gone. For me, heaven on earth is living in a state of perpetual gratitude. Sustainability is a buzz word now. But Kathy built sustainability into CAMO’s mission from the very beginning. Kathy is a guiding example of what God can do through inspired people. She has been able to hang in through many challenges and obstacles. And now CAMO is a shining example of a successful NGO in a country struggling with corruption.”

Please contact the CAMO office if you’ve included CAMO in your estate planning or are interested in making a donation of stock to CAMO. If you’re interested in learning about planned giving, please contact your financial advisor or one of our contacts below.

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

Lisa Lynch, CAP
Associate Director for Donor Services
Phone: (614) 251-4014
Email: llynch@columbusfoundation.org

THE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Sara Patton, Executive Director
Phone: (330) 262-3877
Email: spatton_wccf@sssnet.com



16TH ANNUAL CAMO GOLF SCRAMBLE



On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and the people we serve thank you. The Pines staff were wonderful we could not have asked for a better venue. We are thankful for a great group of volunteers who helped to lighten the load and make the event fun for all the participants.

With perfect weather we had the best year ever with 33 teams registered and 31 teams at the event. 67 different sponsors. Special thanks to all the participants and sponsors. Next year mark your calendar for Saturday June 11th, 2022.



THE WINNERS OF THE EVENT WERE:

Congratulations to the Winners of the Golf Scramble!

GOLF SCRAMBLE
RAFFLE



WINNER:
PATTY ROBERTS



WEBER'S SPIRIT GRILL
VALUE: \$500



Thank you to The Wooster Lowe's Home Improvement Store. Through their Charitable Donation Program, they have generously provided CAMO with this grill.

1st place team:

Jake Miller
Matt Schoup
Jamie Neuenschwander
John Ciesielski

2nd place team:

Anthony Troyer
Brian Miller
Kevin Beachy
Junior Miller

THE SPONSORS OF THE EVENT WERE:

Major Corporate Sponsors:

PNC Bank

Special Sponsorships:

Garrett County Orthopedics
WKLM

Breakfast:

Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnson
Dr. John & Judy Thomas
Dee & Mary Vaidya

Lunch:

Patrick Maloney and Dr. Mary Boylan Maloney
Dr. Paul & Ruth Crowley

Wine on Nine:

Ron Taggart

Grill Donation:

Lowe's

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Gerber Lumber & Hardware
Dr. Dennis Helmuth
Hummel Group, Inc.
Jarrett companies
Kidron Kars
Kidron Town & Country
Lerch's Donuts
McIntire, Bradham & Slek Funeral Home
Lee & Debra Miller
Dr. Michael & Beth Miller
NCA
Northwestern Mutual
Cyndi Annen, EMS Coordinator
Domokur Architects
Dutch Kitchen
Dyer, Roche & Company, Inc.
Kaleidoscope Beauty Salon
Kidron Kars
Kidron Town & Country
McIntire, Bradham & Slek Funeral Home
Mike Fought, State Farm Insurance
Lee & Debra Miller
North Western Mutual Insurance

Proximity & Skills Games Sponsors

Apple Creek Plumbing
Edward Jones
Capek Insurance
Kaleidoscope Beauty Salon
Phil & Bernadette Mariola
Mennonite Mutual Insurance Co.
Orlo Auto Parts, Inc.
Richard Law Office, LLC

Raffle and Prize Sponsors

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Shisler's Cheese House
Shanklin Heating and Cooling
Troutman's Vineyard & Winery
Certified Angus Beef
Fundación CAMO Honduras
Wooster Motor Ways

UPCOMING EVENT

Bringing Hope to the forgotten

Salsa Sizzle

LIVE AND ONLINE

We are ALL grateful for your years of support!

\$10
DANCING ONLY TICKET
9-11 P.M.

\$50
PER GUEST
FESTIVE ATTIRE ENCOURAGED
6-11 P.M.

SEPTEMBER • 17 • 2021
6-11 P.M.

GREYSTONE EVENT CENTER | 50 RIFFEL ROAD WOOSTER, OH

Salsa Sizzle Live & Online!

BE PART OF CAMO'S MAJOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!

Live event will be held at Greystone Event Center, Wooster, Ohio on Friday September, 17th 6-11pm.

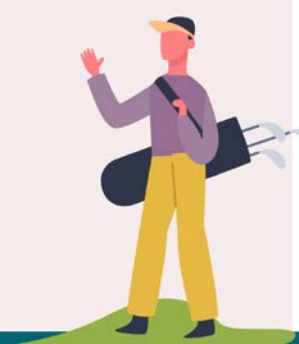
We will have live and online bidding at the same time thanks to Kiko's assistance in providing this service.

THE SPONSORS OF THE EVENT WERE:

Gift Bag Sponsors

Aultman Orrville Hospital
Wooster Community Hospital
Ted & Sue Crawford
Phyllis Young
PNC
Sequoia Financials
Independence Office Supply

Special thanks to Phil Mariola for the photography of teams.



We are grateful for The Pines, golfers, sponsors and all of our volunteers. Through your participation we raised \$ 27,130. Your help and support goes a very long way for those who otherwise could not imagine the care they receive through CAMO.

thank you!



Online bidding will start Monday, September 13, 2021

Please visit our web page for the list of items.
To date we have:

1. Yale Colorado Condo: One week
2. Infinity Bay Spa & Beach Resort: One week
3. RCI Vacation: One week
Choose from over 100 countries!
4. Authentic Indian dinner at the home of the Vaidyas
5. Six couples, 18 holes of golf, and a picnic dinner at the Spectors' home
6. LeBron James Basket from his foundation with Certificate of Authenticity
7. Hot Air Balloon ride on the "Magic Carpet"

Stay tuned for more items to be listed on our website.

If you are unable to attend the event, no worries! You can be part of our online Salsa Sizzle auction.

Whether you attend or give over \$50 online, you will be entered for a \$100 gift certificate at Montavinos Wine Market.

RESERVATIONS, BIDS, OR DONATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CHECK OR ONLINE AT:

www.camo.org/salsa-sizzle-2021

CAMO
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Medical Outreach, Inc.
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Orrville, OH 44667

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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**



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



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.