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

Note from the Founder

by Kathryn Tschiegg

Zoom is great and serves a purpose, but it cannot replace being physically present.

It has been two years since I have sat in-person with the staff, counterparts, board members, supporters, friends, and government officials in Honduras. The difference has been incredible. In this visit, my concerns focused on COVID-19 and the change of government following the election in January 2022. With this presidential election, every single director and department head has been replaced. You never know what you are going to get. For the first time in twelve years, I am pleasantly surprised at what appears to be a selection of professionals who are capable of leadership positions. In this administration, there seems to be less rewarding of political supporters with vital roles as a favor for their support. In the past, these kinds of appointees make it hard for any advancement. What is interesting and different from my past 30 years of adapting to the new administrations is that we are not seeking out leadership; they are seeking us out. We are glad to attend to the new leaders.

One of those visits was from the Minister of Development and Social Inclusion, Jose Carlos Cardona. During his visit to our facility in March, he mentioned that CAMO had a reputation in the last government for being a serious organization. The example he used was a story he had heard about me walking out of an activity with the former First Lady. Jose Bautista, the CAMO Honduras Director, shared the reason for my departure that day.

The First Lady had sponsored 28% of the cost of 7 prosthetics patients, or \$5,000 in cash. CAMO provided the labor and 72% of the actual cost. The day arrived for patients to receive their prosthetics, which was scheduled for 10 a.m. in the prosthetic department at the hospital. Starting that early morning, the hospital areas were closed in preparation for the First Lady's arrival. At 9 a.m., news came that they wanted to change the location to the CAMO facility. Security took over our building and began prepping. By 12 noon, the plan had changed again. They moved to a school where at least 10 of her staff were there along with a paid audience of about 100 people, all in vests reading "Viva Mejor." Only about 10 people who had no political interest were there, 8 of which were CAMO patients and staff. One six-yearold boy, a bilateral amputee, was forced to sit alone by the First Lady's staff. I noticed him sitting alone looking very sad. I left my assigned seat to sit with him. Upon speaking with him, I soon found out he had extreme depression. He did not want the prosthetic limbs: "They hurt," he told me. I spoke to the First Lady's staff and asked them to be aware that he needed continued therapy and psychological counseling.

The First Lady arrived, and the presentations started. Finally, the patients were to get their long-awaited limbs. What transpired was heart-wrenching. They took this little boy and stood him in the center of every single TV station





Above: Jose Carlos Cardona, Minister of Development and Social Inclusion, visiting the warehouse of CAMO.

Left: Our orthoprosthetist, Santos Benitez, testing the prosthesis on a patient.

reporter present and her marketing team. At least 70 people surrounded him as his legs were put on for him to walk. He did so in tears. I could see the pain in his eyes. This was too much. The First Lady asked me to pose in a photo, but I was so angered by the show I walked out. One of her staff followed me. I simply told them it was best I left before I said something I would regret. Then I directed my staff to never again accept funding from this administration.

After Jose Bautista shared the story, the new Minister simply said, "I thought there might be another side of the story." The new administration then provided \$15,000 for 8 patients without putting them on exhibition for the benefit of politics. The Minister would also like to support our prosthetic program and the trade school. It is relevant that being strong and bold enough to stand up to injustice and abuse of power is what makes CAMO what it is today. This transparency and compassion have circled around for the greater good and aligned us with good people.

New Leadership Brings New Hope

The importance of leaders with talent and compassion is vital but rare. It has been a difficult 14 years for Honduras with the highest historical levels of corruption, nepotism, and exploitation of the budget for self-advancement.

We have had many long meetings with people at all levels. The Chief of Police Comisario Nuñez who oversees the "department" (state) of Copan. This meeting allowed us to secure the continued 24/7 protection of the Women's Shelter, "Casa Hogar."

We also will be providing first responder courses for all the police force in Copan as well as all the materials and medical equipment for the clinic that cares for the police force. Note: in Honduras, police officers are rotated through the country and are housed in the police compounds, returning home monthly to visit their families. Their pay is minimum wage, less than \$500 per month, therefore, CAMO provides a vital service to them.



CAMO and Women's Shelter staff in a meeting with the new Chief of Police.

New Health Leaders at Hospital de Occidente

What a difference a person can make! The new director of the Hospital, Dr. Marith Lopez, has been working with us to bring our service back full force in the Hospital. The prior government officials wiped clean all the records of the administration's use of governmental funds. Yes, computer drives were literally wiped clean. Throughout the last 30 years, CAMO has kept all our contracts, notes, infrastructure designs, and plans for the hospital. We were able to provide the new leadership copies of all this information.

In the last several years, our prosthetics lab in the hospital was shut down. Now the prosthetics lab has been recuperated and is in full operation again. The endoscopy department has been given back to us to provide services, too, and we are working on getting ophthalmology back in the Hospital. We continue to be as supportive of the Hospital as possible, providing supplies and equipment maintenance. One dire need is maintenance and the biomedical department. No resources exist locally so the two people hired in this area do not have a location to work from or tools to work with. This is one area in which CAMO is committing funds for better care and control over expensive medical equipment within the Hospital.



Kathy Tschiegg, Dr. Roberto Alvarez, President of the Board of Directors, and CAMO staff in a meeting with Dr. Marith Lopez, the new director of Hospital de Occidente.

Health Authorities in Gracias Lempira

We met with all the key leaders in the department of Lempira:

- > Dr. Cesar Enamorado, Director of the Juan Manuel Gálvez Hospital
- > Dr. Jennifer Viera, Deputy Director
- > Dr. Mario López, Departmental Director of Health
- > Dr. Oscar Hernández, Head of the Health Network
- > Mr. Pedro Escalante, Municipal Mayor of Gracias Lempira
- > Head of Nursing
- > Head of the Continuous Training Unit



Meeting with the health authorities of Lempira.

They expressed concerns about the hospital's needs for supplies, equipment, and training. We have been supporting them in these areas and have developed the Continuing Education Department in this hospital. They continue to provide training to the nurses. They have asked us to increase services to women and expand our Ultrasound Program with colposcopy and cryotherapy services. Under our model, we have asked for a counterpart to train, and they agreed. So, we will be adding these services to the region.

Higher Level Meetings

Meeting with Governor Rosibel Barrera, Congresswoman Isis Cuellar, and Dr. Marith López, Director del Hospital de Occidente. We briefed them on CAMO's services and areas of development in the Community. They were unaware of the scope of services we provide for their population and requested that we meet with other top officials in the Capital.

Meeting with Governor Rosibel Barrera, Congresswoman Isis Cuellar, and Dr. Marith López, Director of Hospital de Occidente.



CAMO Continues to Have a Far Reach

Holding true to the model of CAMO, it is important that we have partnerships with and hold all leadership responsible.

This strategic imperative has led us to work with city governments, signing contracts to help them provide care to their population. This year, we have signed 13 agreements. As a result, the number of brigades for this year (2022) are: 80 dental brigades, 6 medical brigades with various specialties, and 30 nutrition brigades.

Our support to these municipalities consist of dental brigades, medical brigades with various specialties, screening brigades for school-age children (dental, nutrition, audiometry, and ophthalmology). This is in addition to supporting them with donations of supplies and medical equipment to health centers.

This year, we are identifying community health houses in those remote communities that do not have a health center. These health houses will be supported by donating basic medical equipment, such as nebulizers as well as blood pressure and glucose monitoring equipment. We will train community human resources in the use of this equipment and provide them with a first aid kit.



The following are the city governments who are recipients of our assistance.

Department of Copán:

- > La Unión, San Agustín
- > Dulce Nombre
- > San Nicolás
- > Corquin, Copán CAFICO
- > San Pedro
- > Dolores

Department of Ocotepeque:

- > San Jorge
- La Labor
- > La Encarnación
- > San Marcos

Department of Lempira:

- > Las Flores
- > Lepaera

Above left: Brigade in rural community providing dental care. Above right: Dentist Nancy Mendoza attending to a patient. Directly right: Team of dentists who participate in the dental brigades.







Contracts With Universities

The model of CAMO has always been that of counterparts/partnerships.

We have agreements with the three main universities in Honduras: Technological University of Central America (UNITEC), Catholic University of Honduras (UNICAH), and National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH). These agreements include training in CPR, PALS and ACLS courses, and nursing protocols for all doctors and nurses in their last year of training.

It is so important that we continue to bring knowledge and tools to this country. CAMO's programs have become the training ground for professional students to serve their time in Social Service after they have completed their training.

Dr. Cristina Sequeira stated, "I did my Social Service as a General Practitioner. What motivated me the most was that at CAMO, they saw the patient as *someone*, a unique, special person, not just one more patient out of many. For a doctor in training, coming here was quite gratifying because I was able to learn about the different programs that CAMO has. I spent 6 months learning about the specialties of neurology, ophthalmology, and dermatology, and I feel that, as a doctor, it helped me in my training."

Dr. Cristina was our first doctor who, for her Social Service, served in CAMO Honduras. She set the pace and assisted us in the development of our program for other doctors doing their Social Service with us.

CAMO's model has paved the way in Honduras and has filled many gaps in services. Case in point is our Audiometry Program. In 1993, when we started the first audiometry program, there were no professional human resources in this area. We developed a training program with Dr. Richard Nodar at the Cleveland Clinic. Last week, we received one of the first students graduating with the specialty of phonoaudiology. This curriculum was developed in 2017.

The following is the list of professionals and their associated university serving CAMO for their Social Service program in the last six months. Special thanks to these 16 individuals for their services. So many things have come full circle.

Name	Area	University
Cristina Sequeira	General Medicine	UNITEC
Jorge Brito	General Medicine	UNITEC
Helen López	General Medicine	UNITEC
David Díaz	General Medicine	UNITEC
Cesas Batres	General Medicine	UNITEC
Stefany Madrid	General Medicine	UNITEC
Tania Urquía	Dentist	UNICAH
Yohely Martínez	Dentist	UNITEC
Angie Castro	Dentist	UNITEC
Gissela López	Dentist	UNICAH
Yosselin Coto	Business Administration	UNAH
Flor Maldonado	Marketing	UNCENM
Luis Troches	Business Administration	UNAH
Anuar Torres	Marketing (Trade School)	UNICAH
Anuar Alvarado	Marketing (Trade School) ETAOO	UNICAH
Ericka Peralta	Marketing (Women's Shelter)	UNICAH
Marcela Alvarado	Nutrition	UNAH

"It is so important that we continue to bring knowledge and tools to this country. CAMO's programs have become the training ground for professional students to serve their time in Social Service after they have completed their training."

Integrated Education and Health Program

We have been shipping a container monthly so the flow and chain of supplies has been moving rapidly without untimely delays.

The new Director of Education of Copán, Gonzalo Pineda, met with us this spring. This is the first time the Director of Education has ever come to our facility. He had previously attended the inauguration of the elementary school of El Pinal, San Juan de Opoa, which we added to our Integrated Education and Health Program (formerly known as our Literacy Program). The school received textbooks in the subject areas of Spanish, math, social studies, and science.

Funding this additional school was made possible by Coffee Planet Corporation and Honduran Quality Coffee HQC, which sponsored the purchase of textbooks for 133 students. CAMO has 16 rural schools in the program representing 1,246 students. To the surprise of the new Director of Education, the students in our programs have an opportunity to learn far beyond the bare minimum requirement of the education system of Honduras.

"In the USA, we wonder why Honduran families are fleeing to the States. The root of the problem is not at our border; it is in the lack of opportunities."

We also surveyed the 48 teachers in the 16 schools who participate in our program. Of these 48, only 7 could use a computer. Many have no higher education. Most rural schools have no textbooks, no higher education requirement for rural area teachers, and in most cases, are not held accountable to minimum standards.

In the USA, we wonder why Honduran families are fleeing to the States. The root of the problem is not at our border; it is in the lack of opportunities. We have the commitment of Director Gonzalo to work with us to expand our education program and to work with the teachers to understand the application of these textbooks.

We are grateful for the new partnership of the Coffee Cooperative of Corquin, Copán (CAFICO). They have agreed to help with two more schools with libraries and the provision of computers for the creation of a computer lab.



Meeting with the new education authorities from the department of Copán.



Kathy Tschiegg and Dr. Roberto Alvarez from CAMO along with Bernardo Hernandez, President of the CAFICO coffee cooperative.



STAY CONNECTED

For more inspiring stories, updates and information about CAMO, visit our web page: www.camo.org, Facebook or Instagram

The Voices of Our Patients

Integrated Health Care

In October 2021, we saw a report of a 27-year-old who had fallen and broken his back in the mountains. While out for his normal morning run, he had slipped down the mountain and laid for hours unable to move. He was eventually found and taken to the hospital, where neurosurgery was performed to stabilize his fracture. Sadly, the damage was so great that the surgery could not restore his mobility. Now paralyzed, a friend provided him with a tin shelter and did what he could to help care for him.

When CAMO learned about his case, we sent a medical doctor and nutritionist to the small make shift room where he lay. We started working with him, providing him with therapy, care of the urinary system, and colostomy supplies, and treated his ulcers from being confined. He also became a patient in our nutrition program. Our visits continued two days every week.

Francisco went from confinement to mobility, despondent to hopeful. In his farewell from Social Service, Dr. Brito, the doctor who visited him to cure his ulcers, expressed: "He is a patient who has impacted me. We are of a similar age. His attitude and positivity are infectious. Even though he is in a wheelchair and has limited resources and opportunities, he wants to live and smile at life." Integrated health care is vital, and we are so glad we have built an impactful model so we can give people like Francisco hope.

Top right: Francisco when we visited his house for the first time. Bottom right: Francisco after receiving medical attention from Dr. Jorge Brito.

First Procedure Ever Done in Honduras

News of a birth defect in a child born to a poor family in Honduras is a sure death sentence, as they are often without resources or access to special care. Melany was five and a half months pregnant when she saw a new specialist at Leonardo Martinez Hospital in San Pedro. Melany and her husband, William, are farmers with a very small piece of land. The diagnosis was devastating: myelomeningocele, a malformation of the neural tube canal causing the most severe form of spina bifida.

Upon hearing the news, Melany was also told there was the possibility she could be the first recipient in Honduras for an intrauterine surgical procedure to correct the problem. The surgery was scheduled for November 13, 2021, with specialists from Mexico coming in to perform the operation. When the specialists from Mexico canceled, Robert Alvarez, Neurosurgeon of the CAMO neurosurgical program, who was there to observe, was asked how many myelomeningoceles operations he does. The neurosurgeon at the Hospital in San Pedro does about 4 a year; Dr. Roberto Alvarez does 8 a month. Suddenly, Dr. Alvarez found himself doing the first ever intrauterine repair of myelomeningocele in Honduras with the assistance of a maternity specialist and neonatal specialist.

CAMO provided Melany support for post-op care and continues to provide support for the transportation to and from physical therapy for Melany's newborn. When we asked how she was doing, holding little Daniel in her arms, she expressed her gratitude for her baby, whom she referred to as a "Miracle of God."

Mother Melany carrying little Daniel Eduardo in her arms.







Addressing Malnutrition

The hardships of COVID-19 have affected us all in one way or another. We have been presented with an overwhelming number of people knocking at our doors with greater needs than we have seen in the past. Sometimes the way things transpire is undeniable—beyond our imagination and driven by the walk of faith.

Some of you might remember the Bucket of Care project for the Hurricane victims. This led to a conversation with the director of Harvest Call, Dan Hartzler, and a volunteer, Bob Stroller. They told us they normally use their 5-gallon buckets for shipment of food to Haiti but would consider helping us also. So, in September of 2021, the first buckets of food arrived in Honduras.

We use the Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Scale (ELCSA), a method for directly measuring the universal household experience of food insecurity. It is a simple scale and easy to apply. We trained the poor small rural city governments to identify families at risk by using the Scale and instructed them how to prepare the provided food.

We are working with 8 towns:

- · San Marcos of Ocotepeque
- · San Pedro Copan,
- · Las Flores, Lempira
- · San Agustin Copan
- · La Encarnacion Ocotepeque
- · La Copan Union
- · La Labor Ocotepeque

We also use these buckets in our nutrition program and in support of 50 HIV patients. To date, 108 families have been selected, and we will continue to monitor their risk. To date, 308 buckets have been delivered, and we continue to get over 100 buckets per shipment, or about 1,000 per year. The food in the bucket provides 24 days of food for a family of 5.

Nutrition Brings Rapid Improvement

Bianca Ramírez, our nutritionist, was happy to receive a new nutritional supplement, "Plumpy'Nut," which arrived in Honduras in October 2021. Harvest Call provided \$2,400 for the purchase of this product.

One of our partners is Teleton, a rehabilitation center that oftentimes refers patients to us. This is how a one-year-old baby, Ángel Daniel, came to us with a medical diagnosis of Down Syndrome and heart disease. On his initial visit, he presented as small and underweight. He had no teeth and was only taking baby food. Nutritional education was provided on how to make feeding mixtures with higher caloric density and more nutrients, adding ½ a Plumpy'Nut sachet per day for a month as a snack.

On Angel's next evaluation one month after his initial visit, Bianca Ramirez found a two-pound increase in Angel's weight and a 3 centimeter increase in his height.





Top: Lorenzo Cruz, technician from the Municipality of La Labor, receiving instructions for the delivery of buckets of food. Bottom: Jose Bautista, Director of CAMO Honduras, delivering a bucket of food to a beneficiary family.



Above: Nutritionist Bianca Ramírez, receiving a donation of Plumpy'Nut. Top right: Angel Daniel a month after his first visit. Bottom right: Ángel Daniel during his first visit at the nutrition program.





Program Updates

Hogar De Niñas (The Orphanage)

We finished the orphanage renovations, with the total cost coming to \$105, 000. We are also in the process of fixing the sewage system for this facility. Grave problems have been uncovered during the renovation.

Funding has been provided and repairs will be complete by the end of 2022.

Girls at the orphanage making bread.



Thanks to Dr. JC and Mary Tabet and the Salem Mennonite church, we can get the first phase of the trade school running with the purchase of the transformer and panels needed to get the new areas fully functional.

We still need an additional \$150K to complete the project, which involves gutting and remodeling the old facility.

View of the new area of trade school in need of the three phase transformers and panels.





Hurricane Iota/Eta

The construction of the Temporary Shelters project was initiated January 2021, with our last home being completed on March 1, 2022.

It is very difficult to put in words what we saw in the hurricanes' aftermath and the difference this intervention has made in the community's lives. With this modest shelter, most of these people are living better than before the hurricanes. Many had never lived with anything other than a dirt floor. To have a place that is safe and clean for their families is something that was out of reach.

We are so thankful to all of you for your support of this project. Our campaign impacted 437 families and 1,599 individuals. Each shelter cost approximately \$1,258. The Wend Collective, Seaman Corporation, Weldmaster of Navarre, and Gerber Lumber were our main supporters. These and our individual donors of these homes will never be able to grasp the impact you have made on these families.

SUMMARY OF SHELTERS BUILT AFTER HURRICANE IOTA/ETA

Target Intervention Sector	Number of Shelters Completed	Population Impacted
Banana Fields Sector	190	701
Northern Rural Sector	109	412
Rural South Sector	106	380
Urban Sector	33	106
Total	437	1,599

The Wend Collective, Seaman Corporation, Weldmaster of Navarre, and Gerber Lumber were our main supporters. Thank you!

Thank you for believing in CAMO to get this project done. Our campaign impacted 437 families and 1,599 individuals. Each shelter cost approximately \$1,258.















Transfer Your Assets

• Make a Gift directly to CAMO or to one of CAMO's Organization Endowment Funds via check, or transfer funds from your Donor Advised Fund:

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

columbusfoundation.org/the-giving-store/nonprofits/ Lisa Lynch, CAP

Associate Director for Donor Services

Phone: (614) 251-4000

THE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

waynecountycommunityfoundation.org Ryanne Jennings, Executive Director Phone: (330) 262-3877

THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION

Link directly to our fund is: https://bit.ly/CAMOfund Central American Medical/Education/ Development Fund www.clevelandfoundation.org Brenda S. Cummins, Philanthropic Advisor Direct: 216.615.7158

- Give a Gift of Stock directly to CAMO
- Make an IRA-to-Charity/Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to CAMO to satisfy your required minimum distribution of your tax-deferred retirement account

Leave a Legacy Gift to CAMO: **Remember CAMO in Your Estate Planning**

Every day, CAMO makes a difference, providing health care, education, and so much more to the disadvantaged people of Honduras. We count on your generous contributions so that we can save lives. But did you know that with thoughtful planning, you can advance your own estate planning while helping CAMO to provide essential services, not just now but far into the future?

Let's say your annual gift to CAMO is currently \$2,250. If you designate a \$50,000 endowed gift to CAMO in your will, it will yield \$2,250 annually at 4.5% yield. Thus, the annual yield will be equivalent to your annual gift to CAMO. Your planned gift will allow CAMO to continue saving lives and help countless more people in the future. Your gift will keep on giving!

If you would like to include CAMO in your will, please discuss with your estate planner. If you have already made a planned gift to CAMO, please let us know. We want to thank you and ensure your wishes are met. We have a privacy policy for all of our donors; you can find this policy on our website: www.camo.org



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** FOR MORE **INFORMATION**



Golf Scramble

Saturday, June 11, 2022 The Pines Golf Club, Orrville

Get ready for our 17th Annual CAMO Golf Scramble! If you love golf and have the heart to serve our mission, then this event is for you.

Salsa Sizzle

Saturday, September 17, 2022 Greystone Event Center, Wooster

CAMO is optimistic about having the Salsa Sizzle as a live event in 2022. Hope to see you in person this year for dancing, music, and great food!

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. This year our virtual campaign seeks your support for this essential program.



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

thank

Special thanks to **Kelsey Grode** 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 reimaging 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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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!

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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!

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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.