



# CAMO

*A different kind of aid organization*



Summer 2022 • Volume 31 • Issue 2

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

## Founder's Note

by Kathryn Tschiegg

**We cannot control the time that we have here on Earth. People in our life come and go, whether through death or the passage of time.**



Eldon Gerber

Each one leaves a significant mark on our lives. In the last six months, we have lost dear friends. I want to honor three people who had an immense impact on me and shared a passion for our mission.

### Eldon Gerber

Eldon Gerber is one such person. I knew him most of my life as the person I would talk to at Gerber Lumber for supplies and project needs. In 1998, the Steiner brothers donated land in Orrville for a new warehouse. I called Eldon to ask him about pricing of materials for the new CAMO warehouse building project. He said he would get back to me. Several days later, I received a call from Eldon: "Kathy, I called our vendors we do a lot of business with and asked them for a donation of the different building materials we will need. They have all agreed to donate the supplies needed."

We cannot calculate how many lives have been saved and impacted by the medical materials and equipment processed through our facility, but Eldon was a key player who made this possible. Eldon died before receiving his retirement gift of a 2022 Jeep. This Jeep is being raffled off in support of CAMO, the Kidron Fire Department, the Boy Scouts, and Kidron Park on August 5th.

*Please see page 11 for details on the Jeep Charity Raffle.*

### Helen Smith

Helen Smith was my first full-time secretary. Helen and I ran the office from 2001-2008 with the help of volunteers managing the warehouse area. She was my right-hand person. I could be in Honduras or out for speaking engagements, and not one thing would get by her. When I returned, I would have a full report. Our working relationship was mutually respectful, and she brought common

sense to the management of the office. This morning I was reminded that common sense is not so common anymore. Life was good with Helen by my side. Without her, the early years would not have been as successful; her contribution was key in allowing CAMO to develop.

### Ann Farmer

Ann Farmer was a champion of our literacy program. We would watch the "random gifting of items and books" with no process of development or tracking during our international brigades. This randomness was in complete contrast to what our model represented. I shared this with Ann, who agreed to head up the literacy program, bringing expertise and funding. Together, we worked on a better model of development. We started this program in 2012 and now have 16 elementary schools participating. Each child has four subject matter curriculum textbooks for grades 1-6, and is screened and treated if necessary for obstacles to learning in the areas of vision, hearing, dental, and nutrition. We have 1,240 students in this program. Ann raised 150k of funding over these last ten years through the Episcopal Church and Third World Books. These children will never know Ann, but her impact on their lives will live on for many years. I will miss her monthly phone calls.

I deeply cared for these individuals and what they stood for. I continue to be blessed by their mentorship, friendship, and support. They will be missed. I challenge you to think about those who have blessed you and let them know. Time is of the essence.

On another note, congratulations to Max Gerber on his retirement on June 17th. I think we will see him around. In the first ten days of retirement, he came to CAMO six of those days just to visit.



Helen Smith



Ann Farmer

## Women's Shelter

Being a counterpart is a two-way street. When people think about our mission, what likely comes to mind is USA professionals going to Honduras. However, we have found that bringing individuals from Honduras to the States is much more effective in being able to see the structures, facilities, protocols, and procedures in person.

On May 23rd, we had the honor of having Karin Timpel, Director of the Women's Shelter in Honduras, "CASA HOGAR," and board member Reina Perez, former vice mayor of Santa Rosa, spend one week in Wooster. Karin and Reina are both new to the governance of the shelter in Honduras. Their visit was to their counterpart facility, One-Eighty, the model on which the women's shelter in Honduras was based. Special thank you to Stacey Rehm, the Victim Services Manager, and Bobbi Douglas, Director of One-Eighty, for providing the opportunity to meet staff and review information about their sister shelter.

We are updating our policies and procedures of the Casa Hogar in Honduras. "This visit was beneficial in the process of intake and the evaluation and risk assessments of the victims. We are so grateful for this opportunity and its impact on our development. We look forward to a continued relationship and future travel of One-Eighty staff to see our shelter here in Honduras," said Karin Timpel. One outcome of the visit is the Continuing Education in Domestic Violence networking into the USA alliance.

We are looking forward to joining this network.



Left: Karin Timpell, Director of the Women's Shelter; Ron Taggart, USA Board President; Reina Perez, Board Member of the Women's Shelter; and Kathy Tschiegg, Executive Director at the Depot Station.



Above: Kathy Tschiegg, Executive Director; James Carpenter, Operations Manager; Reina Perez, Women's Shelter Board Member; and Max Gerber, Purchasing & Sales Manager, CAMO USA Office.

Above: Stacey Rehm, Victim Services Manager; Gina Patterson, Psychologist; along with the Director of Casa Hogar, Karin Timpel, and the Treasurer of the Board of Directors, Reina Pérez.

## Trade School

CAMO started the Trade School project one year before the COVID-19 pandemic. This project is a challenge, but we continue to make progress even with the 50% price increase in materials.

At this time, we are focused on the electrical system and purchased materials, including the transformers and three-phase electrical supplies.

Special thanks to JC & Mary Tabet and Salem Mennonite Church for their support in funding the trade school's electrical needs.

**We do have a 25k matching. For anyone interested in a matching opportunity, this match would complete the second floor of the new construction.**

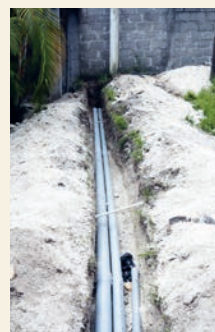


Above Right: The electrical panels in the electrical room.

Left to Right: New electrical transformers were acquired for projects in the trade school.

Schedule pipes for underground cables from the transformer bank to the electrical room.

Installation of the underground pipes for three-phase electrical wiring from the transformer bank to the electricity room and the corresponding panels.





## Community Center/Gym

In February, on my arrival to Honduras, my heart was saddened by the disrepair of the community center/gym. The prior public health administration had used this facility as a triage area during COVID but unfortunately left it in ruin.

No maintenance, much less cleaning, was done. Martin, the coach for the center, saw my face when I walked in the door and quickly came to my side. "It's okay," he told me. He had more than 40 youths scheduled to clean, paint, repair, and replace the gym floor. We had good leadership, and I had no doubt this would come together. Sure enough, the gym was full of activities of all kinds in April.

The membership returned to pre-Covid within two weeks of opening and now has exceeded both prior memberships and income to ads surrounding the court. By April 9th, there was a shift of sadness to an overwhelming sense of joy to see so many people taking advantage of healthy activities and children in a safe place and not on the streets.

Special thanks to the Board of Directors of the Sports Association who administers this facility. Thanks as well to Banco de Occidente, who partnered with CAMO to fund the clean-up and re-implementation of activities.



80 boys and girls practicing soccer at the community gym.



Clockwise: 80 boys and girls are enrolled in the soccer program at the community gym. 30 children are enrolled in the ping pong program at the community gym. Currently, 35 children and adults are involved in the chess club which is part of the community gym. 30 children are enrolled in the volleyball program at the community gym.





# Education and Comprehensive Health Program

The Honduras school year is February – November. We presently have 16 schools in our program and have completed supervision visits of 9 of the 16 schools.

In this school year so far, CAMO has provided 3,008 dental, nutritional, ophthalmological, and audiometry services for children who otherwise would not have access to these services. In addition, CAMO was able to identify 266 children who needed further treatment and were referred to different clinics and some of our programs.

One case was a little girl with a severe infection in her eye; untreated, she would have lost the infected eye. We immediately called her mother and assisted the family in transportation that day to the eye program where she received treatment. Fortunately, we saved her eye.

Nohemy Elizabeth, a six-year-old first-grade student, is another example of what we find during our health check visits. Nohemy was one of the students that Gloria (our audiologist) evaluated on April 18. She was a student who was often distracted. It was difficult to get her to pay attention. Her teacher shared her concern with the brigade in one of our Education and Comprehensive Health Program schools.

After evaluating her, Gloria identified that she had hearing problems and referred her to our clinic for further medical exams and the fitting of hearing aids. In addition, she will be receiving speech therapy at Teleton, the most well-known physical therapy and treatment clinic in Santa Rosa.



Above: Gloria, our audiologist, evaluating Nohemy for her hearing problems. Right: Nohemy, a six year old, receiving care in one of our medical brigades.



These are just two of the cases we uncovered. We also found entire families in need of nutritional support. Your support is vital. Please share our journey with your family and friends.

Month	Services Provided <i>February 1 – May 30, 2022</i>								Total Services Provided and Referrals	Referrals	Age Range
	DENTAL		OPHTHALMOLOGY		AUDIOMETRY		NUTRITION				
	Services Provided	Referrals	Services Provided	Referrals	Services Provided	Referrals	Services Provided	Referrals			
APRIL	591	0	224	8	188	35	211	64	1,214	107	3-16
MAY	922	0	395	56	244	29	233	74	1,794	159	5-16
TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED	1,513	0	619	64	432	64	444	138	3,008	266	

## Orthotic/Prosthetic Program

Edgar has been our orthotics and prosthetics laboratory patient since he was five years old.

He was born without lower legs. We have grown with Edgar, working with him and his family every year to provide financial and prosthetic support. We have seen Edgar often. As he grows, his prosthetics have been remade or adapted to his growth. The impact on his family has been tremendous. Instead of caring for someone confined to a bed or a wheelchair, he is active and able to play and walk to school with his brothers and sisters. He is a very active eighth-grader and loves school. Our Orthotic/Prosthetic program sees an average of 709 patients per year.

**Right: Santos to the left, our orthoprosthetist, and Edgar to the right, our patient since he was five years old. Right: Edgar being able to stand up on his own at his home.**



## Gastroenterology Program

CAMO built the endoscopy department in 2007.

Unfortunately, the department was closed during the pandemic, and patients no longer had this service available. At the same time, internal medicine Dr. Dominquez, who we funded for gastric research, retired. The gap in care was a great concern to us. The gastric research had been instrumental in uncovering the high incidence of gastric cancer in Honduras. Research funding was made possible by Vanderbilt University, NIH, and the efforts of Dr. Douglas Morgan.

In prior years, no specialists in gastroenterology existed in Santa Rosa. In April, we approached Dr. Victor Lopez, a young but experienced gastroenterologist, to work with us. He agreed. CAMO remodeled the department area, allowing for a designated research area and the continuation of the research, but more importantly, the treatment of the patients with gastrointestinal problems. Dr. Lopez's first week began June 13th. He had eight emergency cases and nine scheduled cases. We want to thank the Internal Medicine Department and hospital leadership for recognizing the gap in care and working with us to reinitiate our services and, at the same time, allow an office to be created for the continuation of gastric research and cancer registry.

**Right: Dr. Victor López treating a patient reclaimed in the endoscopy area.**



## CAMO'S CERTIFICATION CENTER FOR THE AHA

We have come a long way since 1995 when we witnessed death due to lack of education of the medical staff; no one in Honduras was certified in basic lifesaving techniques.

Today, we certify at least 1,200 professionals a year. Again, the full impact we will never know. What we do know is people who have been certified come back to us and tell us their stories of saving their children, family members, and patients with these techniques.

You only need to see the tears in their eyes to know the development of the CPR educational program is vital to saving lives.



Number of Courses	American Heart Association Course Name	Number Certified
23	Basic Life Support Course	483
5	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support Course	61
1	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support Course for Instructor	2
2	Pediatric Cardiovascular Life Support Course	2
<b>31</b>	<b>Total 31 Courses Carried Out This Year</b>	<b>548</b>



Save the Date

# Salsa Sizzle!

Saturday, September 17, 2022



## CAMO

## Salsa Sizzle



GREYSTONE EVENT CENTER | 50 RIFFEL ROAD WOOSTER, OH

This year  
the event will  
be **LIVE!**

After two years of online celebrations, it is time to get together again and dance or listen to a night filled with live Latin Jazz music, delicious Latin-inspired food, a celebrity bartending competition, and an entertaining auctioneer that makes the live and silent auction fun.

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

We put the FUN back into Fundraising!

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

The Annual Salsa Sizzle will be held live and in person at the Greystone on September 17, 2022—make sure to Save the Date!



## Get your tickets soon!

You can purchase your tickets from our website or call our office at 330-683-5956.

WE WILL HAVE LIMITED SEATING SO BUY YOUR TICKET NOW!  
[www.camo.org/salsa-sizzle-2022](http://www.camo.org/salsa-sizzle-2022)



scan me!





The Salsa Sizzle helps support so many programs and services!





## Visits from the Administration of the Regional Hospital de Occidente

August 1–August 13 we will have visits from the Director of the Hospital and the Administrator, Dr. Marith Lopez and Lourdes Hernandez, who have been appointed by the new government of Honduras in the top two positions of the Regional Hospital de Occidente.

This hospital is a referral hospital for 1.4 million people. Unfortunately, when the last political party was removed from office and the former president was extradited to the USA, they ordered all files in every government-run institution to be erased. This leaves these two newly appointed individuals with a tremendous mess to clean up and

an impossible learning curve with no resources to fall back on. As we watched them struggle and asked them how we might help, they told us it would be very helpful to be given the opportunity to see a good hospital model.

They will be traveling to CAMO USA for two weeks. Wooster Community Hospital and the Aultman Network has

graciously agreed to help us develop a two-week learning experience in the areas of Hospital management and Inventory management. We have included a photo of their warehouse situation. A picture is worth a thousand words!



Hospital de Occidente's current medical supplies warehouse.

## Remodel of the Women's Medical Ward

No nurse's station, no division between beds, no bedside stands, boxes everywhere, ceiling deterioration, bathrooms missing vital toilet parts, no privacy, no individual lighting per bed.

This is what 10 years of poor management at every level looks like. We have been asked to create order and flow for one ward and then use this as a model for the rest of the hospital. With new leadership, there is restored hope. We look forward to a better environment and future for the sick.



Women's medical ward of the Hospital de Occidente.



*New leadership brings restored hope.*



# Demolition of Area for the New Biomedical/Maintenance Department and Central Service Room

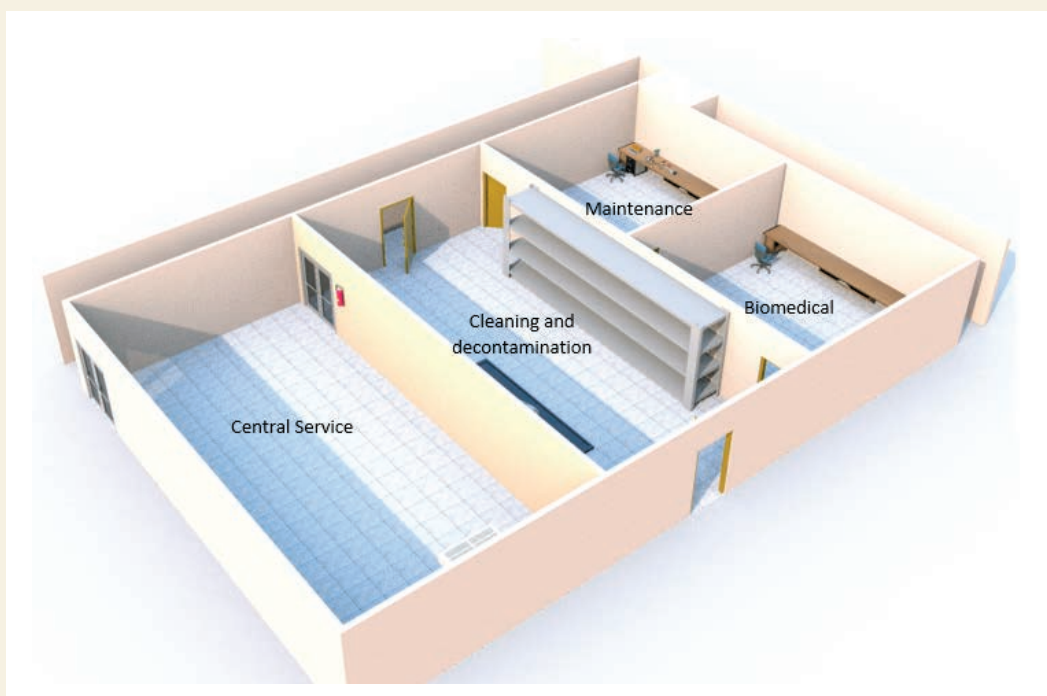
This is the present condition of the maintenance area, which serves as the staging ground for all repairs. Two people are in maintenance, and one is on the biomedical staff; they have few tools and no working space.

It is one big junkyard.

For years we have been asking the hospital to take the maintenance of the facility and equipment more seriously. Finally, we have collaboration for this project and funding.

CAMO, in partnership with the community of Santa Rosa, will convert the current space into a biomedical and maintenance department, each with its own working areas. It will have a decontamination area for clean-up, testing, and painting equipment before placing it in a central service for dispatch and use in the wards.

The central service is a new concept for Honduras. We are so excited about building the space and the system for better maintenance of their resources. Visiting USA central services departments will be part of the visit of the new director and the administrator so they can better understand the benefits of this system.



Top: Area for the new biomedical/maintenance/central service.

Left: Design of the new biomedical/maintenance/central service





# PLANNED GIVING

SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE TO CAMO

## Marty Junkin — June 30, 2022

Although her annual donation is modest, Martha Junkin is leaving a part of her legacy to CAMO. In 1992, 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 as a beneficiary of the principal, the income from which has nearly doubled the original principal.

"I live very simply by choice. I grew up in a very simple home, my mom was Mennonite and my father Lutheran." Martha wants to honor Kathy Tschiegg and her 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 with family members, including a disabled son. "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 buzzword 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 let us know if you've included CAMO in your estate planning. Or, if you're interested in learning about how you can do this, please contact your financial advisor or one of our contacts below:**

### THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

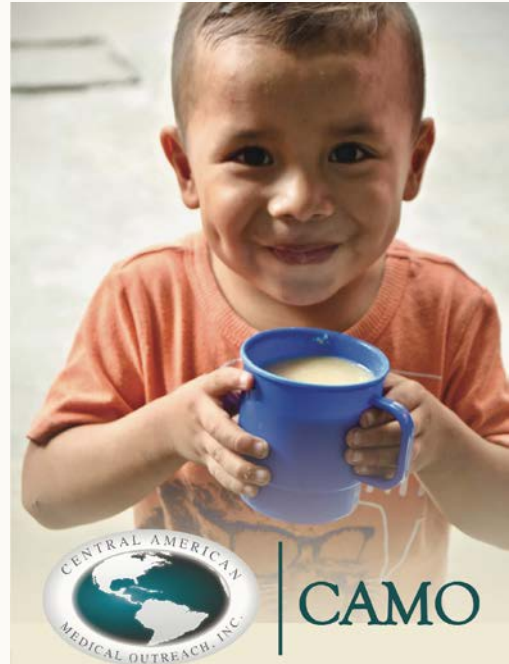
columbusfoundation.org/the-giving-store/nonprofits/  
Lisa Lynch, CAP, Associate Director for Donor Services  
Phone: (614) 251-4000

### THE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

waynecountycommunityfoundation.org  
Melanie Reusser Garcia, 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](http://www.clevelandfoundation.org)  
Brenda S. Cummins, Philanthropic Advisor  
Direct: 216.615.7158



## • Planned Giving •

Leaving Your Legacy to Help  
CAMO's Future.

"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."

- Ron Taggart, CAMO Board President



SCAN ME



## PREVIOUS EVENTS



Special thanks to all the family and friends of Joe and Deb Marino for supporting the CAMO nutrition programs! Our Food for Healing event raised \$16,000 for the nutrition program. This will secure our full time nutritionist and services to serve the children in our Education & Health program and our patients for the next year.

**17th Annual CAMO GOLF SCRAMBLE**

On behalf of the CAMO Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and all the people we serve, we say **THANK YOU!** CAMO raised **\$23,237** as part of this annual event.

Your help and support goes a long way for those who otherwise could not imagine the care they receive through CAMO.

This year, our golf event featured 23 participating teams and 67 sponsors! With great people and perfect weather, the 17th Annual CAMO Golf Scramble was a rousing success!

**THE WINNERS OF THE EVENT WERE:**

Congratulations to the Winners of the Golf Scramble!

**WINNER**  
**Dr. Arun Masih**

**1st place team:**

Dana Brooks  
Tim Huter  
Dan Mecier  
Eric Shank

**2nd place team:**

Randy Worrell  
Punky Weirick  
Dan Rowe  
Ron Culbertson

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Saturday, July 30th**

**Two car shows on the same weekend!**

**Theo's Hot Rods in the Country** by Theo, who is now 11.

This show will have classic, antiques and hot rods. Trophies, giveaways, light refreshments are provided.

9AM – 1PM July 30th at 285 Northeast St, Smithville, Ohio.

The other is the Honduras Association of Classic & Antique Cars; the members are passionate about classic and historic cars. For the third year, they are having an event called **Ruta Copan**.

Each of these two events has a strong commitment to supporting CAMO in serving the disadvantaged.

We will let you know how they do on Facebook.

Last year, Theo raised \$1,200, and the previous Ruta de Copan raised over \$20,00 for the neurosurgical program.

Thank you to Theo, his family, and all the committed supporters of the Association of Classical and Antique Cars.



This Jeep Wrangler was intended as a retirement gift for Eldon Gerber. While that can no longer be the case, we believe the best way to honor Eldon's legacy is to give the vehicle away as part of a charity raffle.

2,000 tickets will be sold for the raffle at a price of \$100 each. The raffle winner will be able to take home the Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sport S, **or receive a \$40,000 cash offer** from the dealership to sell back the vehicle.

100% of the proceeds from the raffle will be used to support organizations that were important to Eldon Gerber during his life. Funds raised through the raffle will go to CAMO (Central American Medical Outreach), the Kidron Community Fund, Kidron Community Park, the Kidron Volunteer Fire Department, and the Boy Scouts of America.

**The drawing will be held on August 5th at Gerber Lumber.**



**CAMO**  
Central American  
Medical Outreach, Inc.  
322 Westwood Avenue  
Orrville, OH 44667

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Wooster, OH  
44691  
Permit No. 223



Address Service  
Requested

## 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](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.*