



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



Summer 2023 • Volume 32 • Issue 2 CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Bringing Hope to the Forgotten

Founder's Note by Kathryn Tschiegg

Our Open House on May 21st Began Our Celebrations Marking 30 Years of Central American Medical Outreach Inc.

It was great seeing so many supporters and volunteers at the event and having some fun reminiscing.

So many things have happened in the past 30 years. With a plan and many dedicated people, the journey has been incredible. Today, many people and organizations partner with us. The model of CAMO is tried and true. It has created a synergy of empowerment to those communities and people to meet the needs of their country.

In 1979, during my Peace Corps service, I ate beans for a month to pay for the shipment of one walker to my 80-year-old patient, Dona Felicita. I buried 31 children under the age of 4 in one month. I struggled to save people with no supplies or equipment. It was working with “nothing” and grieving what could have been if only we had the resources that exist at our fingertips in the USA.

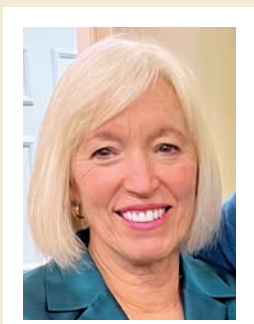
A common question people ask me is: “Did you imagine that CAMO would be what it is today?” I couldn't. As that RN holding my patients in my arms thirty years ago, I felt there was no hope. Today, I no longer must eat beans and rice for one month to get a walker for a patient in need. No longer are patients watched struggling for air because of no ventilators. No longer are women left without an option after being battered. In the city of Santa Rosa, children are not endlessly wandering on the street but now have a safe place to play.

Could I imagine this? No. Has it been easy? No. To have lived in nothingness in Honduras and watch the human death around that



Some of our international volunteers having fun at our 30 year Open House.

nothingness has been devastating. But to have been instrumental in the creation of a model that addresses these dire needs has been the purpose and the joy of my life. The CAMO model of service and business has endured hurricanes, political upheaval, and personal attacks. It has survived. It will continue to survive, and it will continue to provide solutions to the thousands of people who would perish without us. It has truly been an honor to have created this model along with all of you and your commitment to provide hope beyond hurt. A journey of faith without boundaries. This journey has only begun ...



Welcome to Our Newest CAMO Board Member, Mary Anne Orcutt

Mary Anne Orcutt, Ph.D. is a psychologist who is mostly retired after 43 years of practice. She was the owner of a private practice employing eight psychologists in Columbus. She specialized in couples and family therapy, adults, and executive coaching, and she served on the medical staff of two hospitals. She has served on several boards, including as President, Chair of a Personnel Committee, and Chair of the Ohio Psychological Association Ethics Committee. She has provided psychological continuing education, training, and supervision for psychologists, physicians, and other mental health professionals. She and her husband have two adult children, and two grandchildren.

Neurosurgery Program

Implementing an image navigation system for the Neurosurgery Program.

Before 2009, every patient who required a specialized neurosurgery service was referred to San Pedro Sula or Tegucigalpa. In the case of traumatic brain injury, this was a death sentence. Newborns with hydrocephalus also died due to the poverty of the family, who were unable to pay for the necessary referrals and shunts. With the support of CAMO and a contract with the Ministry of Health, Dr. Roberto Álvarez agreed to move to Santa Rosa de Copán on completion of his residency and work at the Hospital de Occidente. He would head up the first Neurosurgical Program for the western population of Honduras. Fourteen years later, more than 683 patients have benefited from surgical procedures; this does not include the consultation of patients who were in need of another type of therapy or treatment.

Taking into account the local poor living conditions, it is important that we provide care in the least invasive way. Image-assisted navigation systems are intended to assist the surgeon in improving the location of tumors in real time. They are responsible for making a three-dimensional mapping by projecting the images obtained by magnetic resonance or tomography. These images allow the surgeon access to perform tumor resection in a safer and more precise way and/or brain biopsies in a minimally invasive way.

- This equipment will offer the country a service that currently does not exist, especially for the poorest population, in terms of spinal and brain surgery. This will make our program in partnership with the Hospital Regional de Occidente a national reference center.

- The equipment will make brain and spinal surgery safer and bring it up to the standards that are required as a minimum in first world countries.

- It will offer new techniques and neurosurgical treatments to the Honduran population in the following areas:

1. The location of small intracranial lesions.
2. Resection of brain tumors with minimal invasion and less secondary damage.

3. Functional navigation in the skull and spine.
4. Spine instrumentation in a safer way, avoiding ionizing radiation to medical personnel, technicians, and patients.
5. Modern treatment for pathologies such as Parkinson's and functional surgery.

We have been working to raise these funds from within Honduras for 3 years.

The project includes the purchase of a navigation system, a biopsy kit, and a cranial stabilization system. The total cost for the acquisition of the complete equipment is \$128,917. We have \$50,000 yet to be raised. Funds raised by the fifth annual car show, "Ruta Copan", will be applied to the final payments of this piece of equipment.

Projected start date for the receipt and use of the equipment: October 2023

Donors: Dr. Jc Tabet, Banco de Occidente, Flor de Copán (Cigars Company), Sr. Joel Alvarenga, Fundraising event Ruta Copán, Municipal de Santa Rosa de Copán.

Why neurosurgery is so important

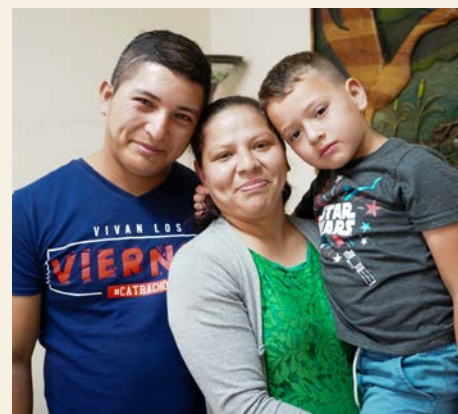
Emanuel was 13 days old and the first patient to benefit from the neurosurgery programs. Born with hydrocephalus, he was provided this surgical intervention and shunt at 13 days old. Today, he is 14 years old and is in secondary education. In the photograph, we see a happy teenager on his recent visit with Dr. Alvarez in May 2023.

Unknown to Jaime, he was born with a brain aneurysm. In December 2022, while working on a coffee farm, he experienced the onset of a severe unrelenting headache.

His wife sought help for him and took him to several doctors. No one could explain why he had a terrible and ongoing headache and could no longer function. "We had lost hope for him and feared his death. In fact, one of the doctors even said that he probably had a headache because he was into drugs, which wasn't true. I cried seeing him suffer and being unable to do anything for him." Jaime's



Neurosurgeon, Dr. Roberto Álvarez and Emmanuel during his recent checkup.



Jaime, his wife, and son, one month after his aneurysm surgery.

wife heard of Dr. Lester Cuello, a neurologist and CAMO volunteer. On consultation, Jaime's critical condition was obvious. Immediately, the neurologist referred him to the Hospital de Occidente which houses the CAMO Neurosurgical Program. Dr. Roberto Álvarez diagnosed him with an aneurysm and scheduled his surgery immediately for December 22, 2022.

On April 27th, after the surgery and with rehab, he was a new man. Jaime was smiling again and surrounded by his family, his recovery complete. On his follow-up visit, he told the staff, "I feel very happy because I am alive again and back with my family and my son. I'll see my son grow. Thanks to God, He gave me a second opportunity to be present and I thank everyone who supported me during this difficult time and kept me in their prayers."

Mammography Program

The mammography service began in 1997. Our mammography machine went down during the COVID-19 pandemic. After several attempts to repair the machines, we were able to buy two machines for parts and make the repairs. The program was re-initiated in February 2023.

Since the repair of the machine, our programs provided groups of women from municipalities of Sensenti, La Union Copan, and Santa Rosa de Copan with 166 mammograms.



We are grateful to serve approximately 50 women each week through our mammogram program.



One of our many patients receiving a mammogram.

Agreements with Municipalities

This year, CAMO has agreements with 9 municipalities, 8 institutional agreements, and 3 agreements to support other institutions. This year we will provide 150 Honduras brigades. The brigades are all Honduran medical volunteers and staff.

To date we have done 68 brigades. The number of patients treated in medical brigades from March to May 2023: 1,800 patients. The number of patients treated in dental brigades from March to May 2023: 1,603.



1. Men, women, and children waiting to receive care during our recent medical brigade. 2. Vision screening helps reduce learning obstacles to many students in rural schools. 3. Patients receive the prescribed medications from the pharmacy. 4. Many receive dental evaluations and treatments during the brigades. 5. Brian Pineda provides healing evaluation.

Education Respiratory Therapy

The public Honduran university (CUROC – UNAH) is currently working on the validation of documents for the creation and opening of the Respiratory Therapy Technician Career Center. CAMO has been tenacious in advocating for the need for respiratory therapy in Honduras. We are presently working with the university and are in the process of creating a new career path, respiratory therapy, in Honduras.

A curriculum for Respiratory Therapy in Honduras is being developed in unison with staff from the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) and expert volunteers from the Association of Respiratory Therapists.

The profession of respiratory therapy is important and necessary given that the leading cause of death and illness in Honduras is due to respiratory illnesses. Respiratory therapy is essential for



appropriate treatment to reverse the high numbers of morbidity and mortality due to respiratory diseases.

North American Respiratory Therapy professionals will come to Honduras to train health personnel in October to assist in developing, leading, and training future students.

Our goal is to have the Respiratory Therapy Career path offered in the public university by 2025.

Authorities from the public university of Honduras (CUROC-UNAH) meet with Kathy.

USAID Project

CAMO’s Education Department was approved for a grant from USAID. The project is called “Creating My Future Here.” This project seeks to promote youth employability in Honduras. The percentage of unemployment in Honduras is very high, and the chances of finding a job is very low if you have not been trained in specific technical skills.

CAMO signed this grant in April 2023 and will be providing training for 800 people between the ages of 16 and 30, of whom:

- 500 people will be trained in soft skills in topics such as: Emotional Intelligence, Leadership and Teamwork, Interpersonal Communication, and Habits at Work with a total duration of 20 hours. 40 hours encompass topics such as Cardiopulmonary

Resuscitation, Standardization in Nursing Protocols aimed at Nursing Assistants and Professional Nurses; Also, First Aid will be available for the public.

- 300 people will be trained only in soft skills.

The project also consists of bringing students closer to sources of employment and ensuring the employment of at least 400 young people. We are working with public and private hospitals, private medical and ambulatory care companies, and international organizations such as World Vision.

To date, 250 people have completed their training.

Department of Education of CAMO

CAMO is providing certifications of the health staff of the Hospital de Occidente in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Standardization of Nursing Protocols. The total number of employees to be trained is 337. To date, 70 people have been trained in Basic Life Support.



Doctors and nurses during their basic life support training.

Trade School

In May, we were able to receive funding from the Ministry of Education of Honduras to help with operational costs. We also signed an agreement with INFOP for the certification of the courses, instructors, and competencies.

The Trade School (ETAOO) is organizing courses in agreement with the German Cooperation, City Development Agency, USAID, Inter-American Development Association (IAD), and the ETEA Foundation.

The Romich Foundation from Wooster, Ohio has joined our efforts helping us to create a Makerspace at the school.

This new course will be initiated in October of 2023 and is funded by the Romich Foundation. Makerspaces have traditional hand and power tools but are distinguished from traditional shops by the availability of tools that support computer-based digital manufacturing.

A Makerspace is essentially a shop or workplace where people can make things. Resources include space to work, tools, materials, hardware, and mentorship resources.

Makerspace course will provide education in the following areas:

1. Introduction to 3D printing
2. 3D design and CAD modeling
3. Laser engraving and graphic design
4. Digital Fabrication with CNC Routers
5. Design and cut with foil cutters
6. Sublimation printing and product customization



Students from the Barber Shop course at the Trade School.



Students from the Barista course learn coffee preparation techniques.

The number of people completing their training at ETAOO from March to May 2023 is presented below.

Course Name	Women	Men	Total
Beauty and Cosmetology	11	0	11
Acrylic Nails	36	2	38
Gastronomy	42	6	48
Bakery	17	0	17
Basic Refrigeration and Air Conditioners	0	15	15
Beauty and Cosmetology	24	0	24
Barbering	10	14	24
Barista	14	6	20
TOTAL	150	43	193



Women learning to make fried, stuffed potatoes at the Trade School.

Construction Project of the Biomedical Center at the Hospital De Occidente

A very broken, neglected system, is the only way to encompass the absolute neglect of the maintenance of equipment at any public health facility in Honduras. The absolute waste was demonstrated when CAMO took two USA biomedical technicians and three CAMO staff biomedical engineers and worked for one week along with three general maintenance volunteers at the hospital. Working with the hospital staff, we were able to repair 93 pieces of equipment at the present-day estimated purchase value of \$975,000. Let me put this in perspective. This was one of 28 public hospitals in Honduras, and one of the best maintained. Just in equipment, we are talking about nationally a deficit created by lack of maintenance of \$27 million dollars. Again, this is a very broken, neglected part of the healthcare system.

The project of creating a biomedical center began in October 2022 and will be completed in October of 2023.

Concerned about the lack of protocol and lives lost due to equipment errors, CAMO wrote a manual in collaboration with appropriate leadership of the hospital. We then presented to the staff of the hospital a system of preventive maintenance, use, and storage. Still, a lot of staff education will take place before the department is inaugurated. The total cost of the project is \$123,000. We are grateful for the support of our donors not only in the USA but also the Mayor's office in Santa Rosa, the Committee of Support of the Hospital de Occidente, and Deputy Javier Trigueros.

Medical Equipment Maintenance Policy: A policy/protocols have been developed to ensure that medical equipment is stored, deployed, and maintained in such a way that the risks inherent in its use such as safety, radiation effect, etc., are minimized and that these devices provide accurate and reliable results.



Kathy Tschiegg and biomedical engineer, Alexander Giron, provided maintenance and biomedical protocol training to staff at Hospital de Occidente.



Protocols for the Biomedical and Maintenance Center.



Current pictures of the Biomedical Center at the Hospital de Occidente.



Collection & Distribution

Between March and May CAMO USA dispatched to Honduras three 40-foot containers, which has allowed us to serve 42 institutions including municipalities, health centers, hospitals, as well as relief and charity institutions. In June, another container will arrive. In July, two containers will be dispatched from the Orrville facility.

CAMO USA hums with daily activity with volunteers sorting and packing supplies to fill these containers. Thank you to these many hands that make this possible.

Impact of donations received from CAMO USA

The provision of an ultrasound printer and piece of equipment which converts x-rays to a digital format to the programs in the Maternal and Child Clinic of Corquín, Copán. This means that our patients will be able to receive their best quality x-rays in less time. This is thanks to the efforts of our biomedical engineers and volunteer, Bob Warner, who was able to reach out to his network to make this possible. They worked together to install and upgrade this equipment.

Donation of Ultrasound to San Francisco Bulnes in Gracias a Dios

Training first, donation second.

Our counterpart in Honduras, Dr. Francisco Chinchilla, trained Dr. Ana Castro in the use and applications of the equipment that this health clinic is in dire need of. Dr. Ana Castro and the donation of an ultrasound machine, sterilizer, electrocardiograph, fetal monitor, vital signs monitor, suction machine, and medical nutritional supplements and supplies will travel to a remote area of Honduras to the Bayan Health Center in the community of Palacios, Municipality of San Francisco Bulnes, Gracias a Dios. This will be a 15-hour journey by land, and boat to get to this area.



Biomedical engineer, Alexander Giron, assisting Dr. Ana Castro with the new ultrasound machine that will be donated to a clinic in Gracias a Dios.



Installation of x-ray equipment at the maternal health clinic in Corquín, Copán.



CAMO employees and staff from the San Francisco Bulnes Maternal Health Clinic in Gracias a Dios.



Aracely De Jesús, X-ray Technician at the clinic in Corquín, Copán, is excited to use the new X-ray equipment.



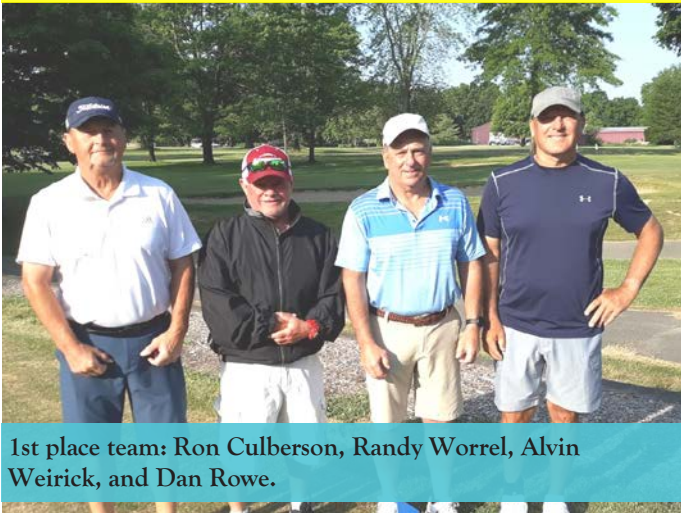
18TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE RESULTS

On behalf of the CAMO Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and all the people we serve, THANK YOU!

With great people and perfect weather, the 18th Annual CAMO Golf Scramble was a rousing success!

- ◆ We raised \$23,844 as part of this annual event.
- ◆ Our golf event featured 26 participating teams

Congratulations to the Winners of the Golf Scramble



1st place team: Ron Culberson, Randy Worrel, Alvin Weirick, and Dan Rowe.



2nd place team: Mark, Matt, Merlin and Norman Coblentz.

We are grateful for The Pines, golfers, and all of our volunteers. All of you are vital parts of CAMO.

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

CAMO provides over 100,000 service a year.

 *Thank you!*



THE SPONSORS OF THE EVENT WERE:

Lunch & Major Sponsors:

Patrick Maloney and Dr. Mary Boylan-Maloney
Garrett County Orthopedics
WKLM, Bruce Wallace
Dr. John & Judy Thomas
Ron Taggart Board President

Breakfast:

Paul & Ruth Crowley
Wayne Savings Community Bank

Cart Sponsor:

The Apple Creek Banking Company

Water & Snacks:

Ted & Sue Crawford

Hot dogs at the Turn:

3 D Meats

Raffle & Prizes

Lehman's Hardware
Orlo's NAPA Auto Parts
Shisler's Cheese House
Certified Angus Beef
Ruth Brown
Troutman's Vineyard & Winery

Gift Bag

Aultman Orrville Hospital
Wooster Community Hospital

Proximity & Skills Games Sponsors

Sequoia Financial
Nancy Goodright, Impressions Salon & Spa
Richard Law Office, LLC
Wayne Holmes Health



Special thanks to Phil Mariola for the photography of teams

Hole Sponsors

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Veterinary Wellness Partners
Voice Solutions
Weeman's Concrete
White's Ford
Wil-San Farm
Wooster Auto Spa
Wooster Community Hospital
Wooster Glass Company
Wooster Motor Ways
Jack Wright, Sr.

UPCOMING
EVENTS



Ruta Copán 2023

Ruta Copán is the fifth annual fundraising event in Honduras to raise money for the Neurosurgery program. Ruta Copan is a car show exhibition of antique and classic cars. It will be held on July 27, 28, 29, and 30 at the Agac-Santa Rosa de Copán facilities. There will be 100 cars from car clubs in Central America.



- 18 Holes with Cart
- Continental Breakfast
- Strip Steak Lunch
- Mulligans & Skins
- Course Prizes & Proximities
- Raffle



DATE: Sunday August 13, 2023

TIME: 8:30 Tee Off

PLACE: Oak Shadows Golf Club
New Philadelphia, OH



Theo's Hot Rod Show

Theo started his support of CAMO at age 7, now 12 years old he continues to do the annual car show, this year it is called Hot Rods in the Country.

We hope to see you there to support this young act of service to others.

Honor Kathryn Tschiegg's 30 Years of Service to CAMO



DINNER TO HONOR

Kathryn Tschiegg

AND HER 30 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP,
DEDICATION AND SERVICE.

ATTEND CELEBRATION DINNER

Thursday, November 16, 2023.

The Connection Conference & Event Center,
1034 Country Club Dr.
Wooster, OH 44691.

Tickets - \$80 per person
(Registration insert included in the newsletter)
<https://www.camo.org/30for30>
6 pm Cash Bar, 7 pm Dinner, 8 pm program

FOUNDER'S CIRCLE IN HONOR OF KATHRYN TSCHIEGG'S DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO CAMO

The Founder's Circle includes donors of CAMO who want to honor Founder Kathryn Tschiegg by including CAMO in their estate plans—leaving a lasting impact on the people of Honduras for generations to come. Here are some examples of how your planned gift will keep on giving.

Ron Taggart, CAMO Board President, stated "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."

Marty Junkin, named CAMO a beneficiary of the principal (the income from which has nearly doubled the original principal) of a Charitable Remainder Trust. Martha wants to honor Kathy and her powerful witness to her faith. "Ever since I heard her story about being haunted by the babies she took to the morgue during the Peace Corps— babies that should have lived...I knew I wanted to help CAMO."

Nancy Nikiforow is a new member of the Founder's Circle. "I've designated CAMO as a beneficiary in one of my retirement funds because I have so much admiration for Kathy and her accomplishments. I wanted to honor her 30th Anniversary with this planned gift."

THANK YOU TO OUR DINNER SPONSORS

Pallotta Ford – *Diamond Level*
Noble Foundation – *Platinum Level*
Seaman Corp
United Titanium
Steve & Cheryl Shapiro
Wooster Hospital
Wooster Brush
Ruth & Charles Brown
Freeman Construction
Mary & Dee Vaidya

JOIN THE CAMO FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

KATHY'S VISION IS CAMO'S SUSTAINABILITY

Leave your legacy to help CAMO's future by including CAMO in your estate planning

Make a provision in your will or trust.
Designate CAMO as retirement beneficiary.

www.camo.org/estate-planned-giving

Intentions to include CAMO in your estate plan that are received by 09/15/23 will be published in the November 16th program booklet.

GIVE A PLANNED GIFT IN KATHY'S HONOR

CAMO HAS ENDOWMENT FUNDS AND REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

Wayne County Community Foundation:

CAMO's Opportunity Fund

Melanie Reusser Garcia
melanie@wccfoh.org • 330-262-3877

The Columbus Foundation: CAMO's Growth Fund

Lisa Lynch
lynch@columbusfoundation.org • 614-251-4014

The Cleveland Foundation: CAMO's Medical/ Education/Development Fund

Brenda Cummins
bcummins@clevelandn.org • 216-615-7158

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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-imaging 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.

Beneficiary of CAMO's literacy project.

Visit CAMO.ORG or call the CAMO office **330-683-5956**



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



See CAMO's story as it unfolds. Follow [camobringshope](https://www.instagram.com/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.