



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



Spring 2024 • Volume 33 • Issue 1 CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Bringing Hope to the Forgotten



Founder's Note

Kathy Tschiegg, CAMO Founder and Executive Director

Sometimes, when I'm working alone in the peacefulness of the garden, my mind starts pondering the problems of the world.

The other day, amidst the springtime beauty of Honduras, I put on a new pair of garden gloves, pristine white on one side. As I toiled in the mud and dirt throughout the day, they inevitably lost their purity and became stained.

It struck me then that this transformation mirrored what happens when we compromise our values, ethics, and commitment to excellence. We begin with a sense of purity and purpose, akin to an angel.

But, as compromises creep in, we become strained and apprehensive. It makes me question my own journey and the choices I've made in life.

On a daily basis, I witness instances of tolerance and compromise where they should have no place. Paradoxically, those who claim to be the most tolerant often reveal

their intolerance when faced with differing opinions. I see compromises in various sectors, from healthcare to education, societal norms of ethical behavior. I see protection of the corrupt daily.

Those who resist these compromises are often met with threats while those who choose tolerance and compromise gradually erode the standards without causing offense, garnering the world's favor. This gradual descent into compromise paves the way for more disobedience and a decline of any standards. It's a slow process, often unnoticed until the lower standards become the new norm.

This reality isn't unique to Honduras but is prevalent everywhere. Standing for higher standards can make one appear odd or abnormal in today's world.

As a leader, I face the ongoing challenge of navigating the gray areas without compromising on what truly matters. While washing those stained gloves, I reflected on the non-negotiables in life: our faith, quality healthcare, quality education, and the right to work diligently for a better future for ourselves and those who come after us.

"I am committed to upholding these values without faltering, guiding those around me to understand the present while considering its impact on our collective future."

Farewell and until we meet again

Lloyd Mumaw June 9, 1946–March 19, 2024

It is with sadness that we lost one of our star volunteers. He was a Godsend to CAMO for many years. Always kind, pleasant and with the biggest smile you can imagine. This was his nature.

Kat Amstuz, who worked with Lloyd weekly, shares:

"Lloyd was a perfect example of how much good just one person can do in the world. Never flashy, always the best problem solver (sometimes in the most unconventional ways), with a heart of gold; his lasting volunteer impact will be felt for many years to come. It was a pleasure getting to know him, to work with him, and to learn from him."



Ophthalmology Programs

The ophthalmology programs treated 4,196 patients last year. Of those, we had 184 patients awaiting eye surgery.

Those patients only represent those individuals who otherwise could not afford the eye surgery. In a normal week, we are only able to provide six free surgeries. The backlog continues to grow as the need is great.

With the arrival of the brigades, we were able to provide 108 surgeries with the help of Honduran ophthalmologists and two USA ophthalmologists from the Holland Eye Clinic along with a team of scrub, circulating nurses and a CRNA. This support provided nearly 60% of patients waiting for eye surgery with the care they desperately needed.

Although we could tell stories for all of the 108 surgical outcomes, here are two clinical presentations to share the impact of when vision is restored:

Maria

Maria's situation was dire; her blindness posed a severe danger to her safety and well-being. She could no longer be independent and was falling often. Immediate intervention was crucial to mitigate the looming dangers and restore stability to her life and that of her family.

At her follow-up appointment 10 days after her surgery, María Jesús was able to move on her own, and her vision had recovered to 93%. As she bid farewell to Dr. Marco and the nursing staff who had cared for her, she expressed deep gratitude for the precious gift of restored vision.

This newfound clarity was especially meaningful as she had missed seeing her two grandchildren, born during the time she was in darkness due to her blindness.



Ophthalmology group of the spring brigade.



Dr. Marco Robles, ophthalmologist, with Maria.

Jacinto

At 92 years old, Jacinto had been a man full of energy and enthusiasm, dedicated to fieldwork and spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. However, his joy was interrupted by the loss of vision caused by a cataract.

One week after his cataract surgery, Jacinto's vision had been restored to 93%, bringing immense relief and joy to him and his loved ones.



Dr. Marco Robles, ophthalmologist, with Jacinto.

Dental Teams

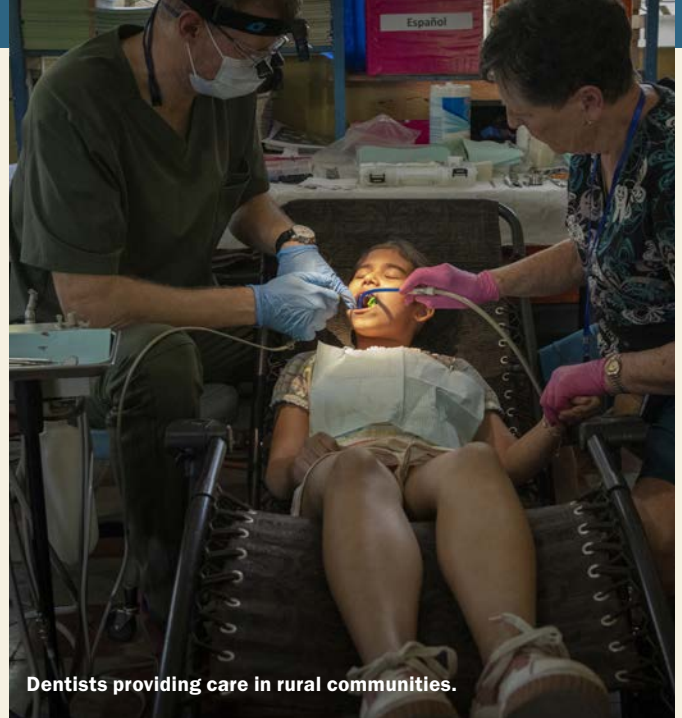
Restoring Smiles

In 2024, the dental brigade made significant strides, conducting 5 USA dental brigades in the rural communities of Corquin in Copán; Las Flores in Lempira; Sinuapa in Ocotepeque; La Union in Copán; and Dulce Nombre in Copán.

A total of 396 children received evaluations and treatments, improving their dental health and overall well-being.

Looking ahead, the program aims to ramp up its efforts with 85 Honduran dental brigades planned nationwide this year. These brigades will occur at least twice a week, ensuring consistent access to dental care for communities in need.

Additionally, the program has secured 14 partnership agreements, including six municipalities, three NGOs, and five private companies, demonstrating a collaborative approach to enhancing oral healthcare services.



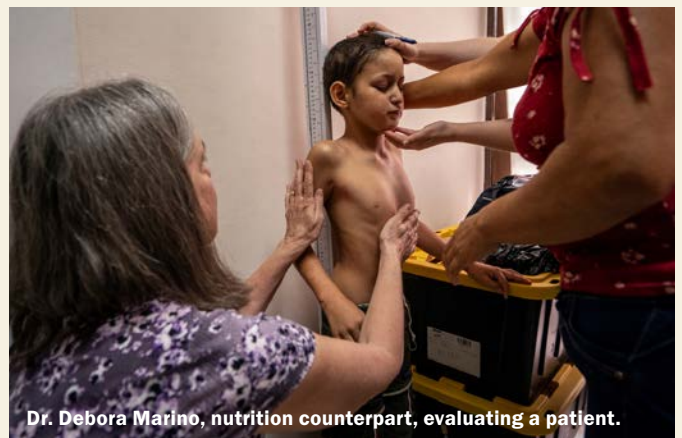
Dentists providing care in rural communities.



Dentist Carmen Fajardo with patient.



Dr. Joe Marino, nutrition counterpart, caring for a patient.



Dr. Debora Marino, nutrition counterpart, evaluating a patient.

Nutrition Team

Over the past two weeks, CAMO has been actively engaged in a range of impactful activities aimed at improving healthcare and nutrition in our communities.

Patient care at the CAMO clinics remains a cornerstone, providing essential medical services to those in need. One example of these efforts is seen with our full-time nutritionist, Bianca Ramirez, who has been assisting the nutrition department at the hospital. Through her work, she continues to emphasize the critical role of nutrition in hospitalized patients and fostering better health outcomes.

Another example of these efforts is with Wendy Anderson, a CAMO USA volunteer nutritionist and lactation specialist. She worked with mothers and the lactation committee to ensure that our public hospital is a certified hospital for children which includes restoring breastfeeding in the hospital.

We also conducted a workshop with municipalities focusing on managing the food bucket donation program (Harvest Call) for individuals facing food insecurity—a vital initiative addressing immediate nutritional needs.

Our USA counterparts, Dr. Debora and Dr. Joe Marino, conducted nutritional evaluations at various institutions including the San José Children's Home, Nursing Home, and Child Care Center. Their work helped to ensure that individuals across different age groups receive adequate nutrition and care.

Looking ahead, the month of May is dedicated to fundraising for Food for Healing, underscoring our commitment to providing sustainable solutions to nutritional challenges in our communities.

These activities reflect CAMO's holistic approach to healthcare, addressing not just medical needs but also the vital aspect of nutrition for overall well-being.

Plastic Surgery

We will not look the other way!

It began with the evaluations of 42 patients and during the USA brigade week, 17 surgeries were performed, mainly for cleft lip and palate.



Enson before and after his cleft lip surgery.



Dr. Albert Suk Won Woo, plastic surgeon.



Edwin before and after his cleft lip surgery.



Mileyda, 5-year-old girl, after sarcoma surgery



Mileyda, 5-year-old girl, before sarcoma surgery.

Mileyda

We had one very special case. Mileyda had been passed up by the public health care system for one year with referrals and was denied intervention. We had to go to battle for this little 5-year-old, an effort we will always do for our patients.

Dr. Woo was able to remove a sarcoma from her face. Now, she is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. We are hopeful for her and her future.

Orthotics/Prosthetic

Mark Gorman's unwavering dedication shines through as he passionately mentors his counterparts Santos and Juan David in the O/P laboratory.

His commitment goes beyond mere guidance; he ensures stringent quality control measures and drives forward continuous advancements in the cutting-edge technology used to create orthotic and prosthetic solutions.

Mark's fervor for excellence fuels a relentless pursuit of innovation, guaranteeing that every patient receives the highest standard of care and functionality from these life-changing devices.



Mark Gorman, Santos Lara, and Juan David taking measurements for the manufacture of orthoses.

Fixing Glitches

We've all experienced the frustration and inconvenience of a sudden appliance or equipment failure – whether it's a computer glitch or a vital medical device. When everything is running smoothly the world feels right, but when something goes wrong it can be incredibly aggravating.

Now, picture being a nurse, doctor, or dentist in a situation where a malfunctioning piece of equipment could mean the difference between life and death. The stakes are incredibly high, and that's why the work of maintenance and biomedical staff is so crucial. While the topic of maintenance and biomedical procedures

may not always be the most exciting to read about, the impact they have on saving lives is profound and cannot be overstated.

We would like to extend a special thanks to all the dedicated hospital maintenance and biomedical staff who have worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to ensure that vital equipment is functioning optimally. Your collaboration with our counterparts from the USA has been instrumental in achieving so much progress and success. Together, we have made a tangible difference in the quality of care we provide to our patients, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Equipment	# Repaired
Secretion Aspirator	18
Dental Units	5
Pediatric Scale	2
Infusion Pump	13
Electrocautery	1
Blood Pressure Cuff	1
Vital Sign Monitor	15
Digital Pressure Gauge	1
Nebulizer	1
Paper Sealer	2
Mechanical Fan	8
Stretcher Repair	10
Lecterns	20
Wheelchair	1
Healing Cart	1
Rolling Tables	3
Total	98

Below, left to right: Robert Warner repairing medical equipment at Hospital de Occidente. Gary Brown and Diana Dubón, repairing dental modules. Thomas Kress and Patrick Maloney providing maintenance to stretchers at Hospital de Occidente.





SERVE / EDUCATE / EQUIP
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
CAMO.ORG

SECURING THE NEXT 30 YEARS FOR CAMO SERVICES

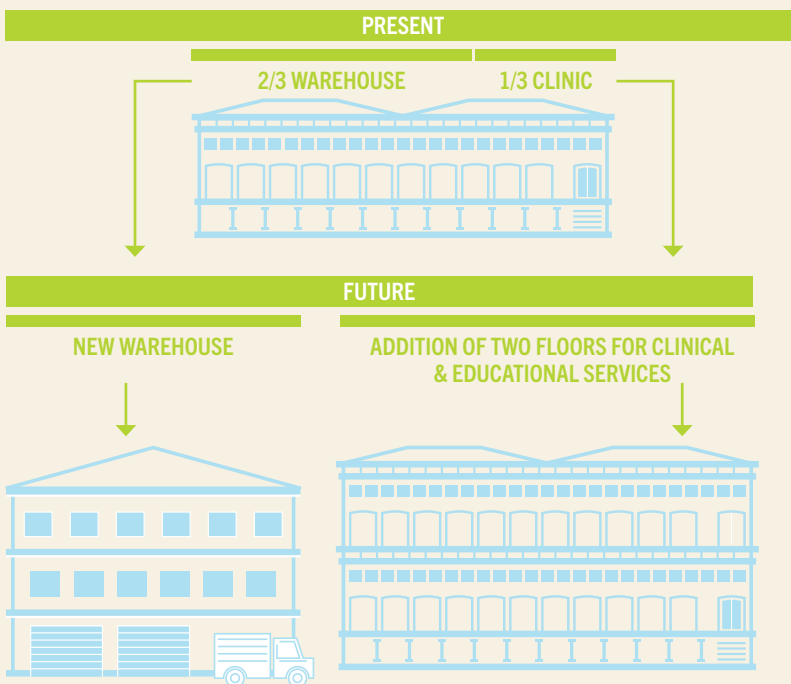
The Campaign to Strengthen CAMO's Services & Distribution in Honduras aims to secure \$2.7 million

to facilitate the expansion of CAMO's facilities and capabilities in Honduras. The project includes remodeling the current CAMO Honduras headquarters, built in 2003, to convert the present warehouse space into two floors for service expansion.

The upgraded facilities will not only enhance medical services, but also provide dedicated spaces for training, education initiatives, and the introduction of additional revenue-generating enterprises.

We will also begin the construction of a new warehouse designed specifically for the storage and distribution of donated medical supplies valued at ~\$2.6 million annually.

EXPANDING OUR FACILITIES



EXPANDING OUR CAPABILITIES

75% INCREASE IN LIFE-SAVING CLINICAL SERVICES

3x TRIPLED CAPACITY OF WAREHOUSE SPACE

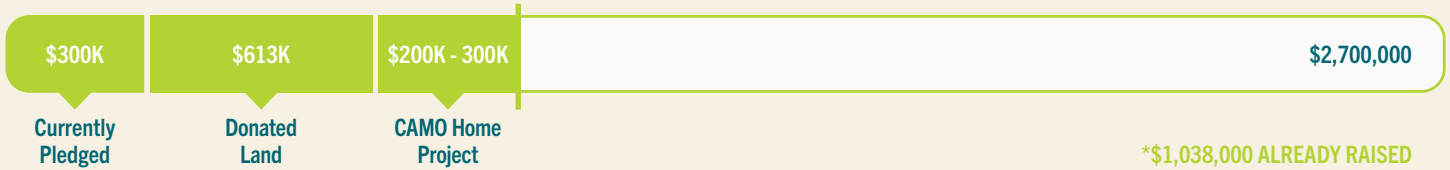
11 NEW CLINIC ROOMS

3 NEW DENTAL CHAIRS

NEW EDUCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER
X-RAY FACILITY
NUTRITIONAL CENTER

SOME OF THE NEW SERVICES OFFERED IN OUR REMODELED CLINIC

FUNDING OUR \$2,700,000 PROJECT IN HONDURAS



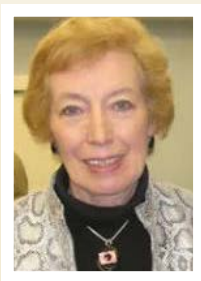
Support in any form, financial, in-kind, or spreading awareness is vital.

Your contribution directly enhances the lives of many in Honduras providing a solution to the root of the immigration issues here in the US: lack of jobs, medical care and security.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND DONATE AT CAMO.ORG

100% of the profit from the HBA fundraiser will go to our capital expansion campaign to increase our services and capacity in Honduras.



Mary Ann King

PLANNED GIVING

Estate Gifts Make a Lasting Impact

Twenty years ago, Vern and Mary Ann King visited my office after a visit with their attorney. They informed me that they had included CAMO in their will. Mary Ann and I worked together at Aultman Hospital during the 1980s and 1990s.

We had a great working relationship. Given her expertise in mental health, I would often consult with her whenever I had patients with mental health needs.

In 2018, Mary Ann invited me to lunch. We talked about her life and adjustment after her husband's death. She offered me support and friendship in the challenges I was facing at the time. In September 2021, Mary Ann's health declined rapidly, and she died of liver cancer.

Recently, CAMO received a check from Vern and Mary Ann's trust fund for \$143,000. This story is a testament to the incredible power of friendship, generosity, and the impact that we can have on others' lives. Mary Ann and Vern made the generous decision to include CAMO in their estate plans. Their foresight will have a lasting impact allowing CAMO to continue saving lives and helping countless Hondurans in the future.

In honor of Vern and Mary Ann King, the funding will be designated towards CAMO's \$2.7 million *Campaign to Strengthen CAMO's Services & Distribution in Honduras* which will construct a new Honduran warehouse/distribution center and renovate the existing warehouse into clinic rooms and an educational training center.

A bequest to CAMO is a way to guarantee that the people of Honduras receive the help they need for years to come.

Please consider a Planned Gift that keeps on giving. Let us know if you've included CAMO in your estate planning. We want to thank you and ensure your wishes are met.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on how your planned gift or bequest can play a meaningful role in CAMO's future, please contact Kathryn Tschiegg, CAMO at (330) 683-5956 or one of our Foundation partners:

Melanie Reusser-Garcia (330) 262-3877
Wayne County Community Foundation

Lisa Lynch (614) 251-4000
The Columbus Foundation

Brenda Cummins (216) 615-7158
The Cleveland Foundation



The Home Builders Association of Wayne and Holmes Counties is excited to announce a remarkable project in 2024. The HBA is partnering with Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) on an awesome fundraising opportunity with all proceeds to benefit the CAMO organization.

The HBA's board of directors approved the partnership in early 2024 and are thrilled at the overwhelming support to date. The project will consist of a new home that will be sold once completed in the fall of '24. The home will be featured in our annual Parade of Homes which kicks off on September 20th. The HBA's members have and will be instrumental in donating time and materials to construct the home at little to no cost which will increase the profits for CAMO.

The HBA is a non-profit professional organization that is comprised of over 150 members. The membership consists of builders and associates that are part of various businesses across the local area and state. The HBA is honored to support and join in such an admirable cause. We look forward to seeing you at our 2024 Parade of Homes where our talented builders feature the latest trends in style and craftsmanship.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Downs
Executive Officer

Postpartum Care

This course is not just about education; it's about empathy, compassion, and the relentless pursuit of better outcomes for mothers and newborns alike.

Our Founder shares the following about her experience related to postpartum care that drives our purpose for this work at CAMO:

“Amidst the hope and progress, I cannot forget the poignant moments during my two years as a Peace Corps Nurse. My last month of service with 31 mothers who were grappling with the loss of their babies. The depth of their grief was palpable, each tear a testament to the profound bond between mother and child.

It is in these moments that the importance of our training program becomes even more evident. By equipping nurses with the skills to provide comprehensive postpartum care, we can strive to eliminate many of these heartbreaking losses.”

During the first week of our training program, we had the privilege of working closely with nine dedicated nurses. Together, we delved into the intricacies of postpartum care for both newborns and mothers, recognizing the critical role nurses play in ensuring positive outcomes.

The following week was transformative as each of these nurses stepped into the role of trainer, passing on their newfound expertise to a group of their peers.

It was a joy to witness their passion and commitment to learning, knowing that their efforts would ripple outward, impacting the healthcare landscape of our region.



A young mother crying over the loss of her baby.



Nursing staff from Hospital de Occidente during newborn care training.



Mary Sayler teaching nurses postpartum care.

“Amidst the hope and progress, I cannot forget the poignant moments during my two years as a Peace Corps Nurse. My last month of service with 31 mothers who were grappling with the loss of their babies. The depth of their grief was palpable, each tear a testament to the profound bond between mother and child.” – Kathy Tschiegg, CAMO Founder and Executive Director

Literacy Program

Our Literacy Program has grown!

We now support seventeen schools with textbooks, libraries, and training for teachers in the application and sharing of teaching techniques.

We had the expertise of Kristin Bourdage, PhD in Education, and Diana Ross, a seasoned teacher, who joined us to conduct a one-week workshop for 48 Honduran teachers. The week was filled with excitement over new techniques and camaraderie as passionate teachers were equipped with more tools to engage with their students effectively.

The children at each of our partnering schools continue to be screened for any hearing, vision, dental, or nutrition needs.



Kristin Bourdage providing training to primary school teachers.

Development of a New Career Path in Honduras: Respiratory Therapy

During our spring brigade, Karen Schell and Wendy Castro (both respiratory therapists and professors specializing in respiratory therapy curriculum development) collaborated with health professionals from both public (CUROC) and private (CEUTEC) universities.

These professionals are being groomed as future respiratory therapy (RT) instructors, and they spent the week immersing themselves in the intricacies of RT in both classroom and clinical settings.

This training is a crucial step as we prepare to launch the RT career path in 2025 at the private university and in 2026 at the public university.



Respiratory Therapy team getting clinical experience at the hospital.

By the end of the week, these professionals achieved significant milestones. They are now able to:

- Describe the comprehensive scope of respiratory care practice, encompassing acute care and diagnostic testing.
- Identify the content areas that hold the utmost relevance to current practices and available equipment resources within Honduras.
- Compile a list of competencies essential for clinical skills proficiency.

To further enhance their understanding and exposure, CAMO and KUMC are generously supporting five of these professionals on a trip to the USA. This trip will provide them with firsthand experience of a well-established RT training program, laboratory facilities, and real-world clinical applications.

This opportunity is invaluable as it will broaden their knowledge base and allow

them to glean insights into international best practices in respiratory therapy education and practice.

Through these collaborative efforts and investments in professional development, we are paving the way for a robust and effective RT program in Honduras. Ultimately, this effort will enhance the quality of healthcare services available to our communities.

ETAOO Trade School Expansion Project

CAMO is thrilled to announce the completion of Phase IV of the ETAOO Trade School Expansion Project!

This space is dedicated to hosting crucial first responder courses and American Heart Association training.

Phase IV also encompasses essential connectivity improvements. We are busy constructing sidewalks, installing accessible ramps, and enhancing our storm sewer infrastructure to ensure safe and convenient access for all students and visitors. This commitment to accessibility and safety underscores our dedication to inclusivity and excellence in education.

We are grateful for the support we have received from the municipality of Santa Rosa de Copán, whose contribution of heavy machinery for waste hauling and a generous donation of \$4,000 has been

invaluable to our progress. We extend our appreciation to our US donors who have contributed significantly to this project.

Last summer alone, their contributions totaled \$50,000, with United Titanium and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation each matching \$25,000 grants from the Noble Foundation. This level of support is truly inspiring and fuels our determination to create a state-of-the-art educational facility that will build a brighter future through education and opportunity to this region for years to come.

Of our 1,032 graduating students of 2023, 80% have found employment. Together, we have made a lasting impact and empower individuals to reach their full potential.

Mammography Install



Aracely de Jesús, technician, with the new mammography machine in Corquín

A new mammography machine has been installed in Corquín, Copán, expanding our women's medical services in western Honduras. This life-changing addition will enable early breast cancer detection, enhancing healthcare accessibility and promoting proactive healthcare practices for women in the region.



Construction of the Trade School's second floor.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

For more information on our events please visit our website at:
WWW.CAMO.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/FUNDRAISING-ACTIVITIES



The Month of May • 2024

The month of May will be dedicated to the virtual campaign for the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Please join Deb and Joe Marino in this campaign and support CAMO's nutrition program.



Saturday, June 8 • 2024

Love to golf and have a heart for mission?

Then this is the opportunity for you to join us on June 8, 2024 at The Pines Golf Club, Orrville for a day of friendly competition and prizes!



Sunday, August 11th • 2024

We are happy to invite you to join us for our 3rd Annual CAMO Yoro Scramble on Sunday August 11th at Oak Shadows Golf Club. Tee off at 8:30 am



Friday, September 20th • 2024

Enjoy a fall evening at the Barn at Thunderhead Pines on September 20th for appetizers, drinks, live music, and a variety of auction items to benefit our women's shelter and education development. Bring your dancing shoes and a friend for an evening of fun!



FORTY-FOOT SHIPPING CONTAINERS ARE LOADED AND SENT EVERY FIVE WEEKS BY OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE USA.

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-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.