



CAMO

A different kind of aid organization



Summer 2024 • Volume 33 • Issue 2 CAMO is a non-profit, faith-based organization. Bringing Hope to the Forgotten



Founder's Note

Kathy Tschiegg, CAMO Founder and Executive Director

It has been 31 years since the founding of CAMO. Since turning 55, I have been diligently reading, studying, and listening to those who have sold their businesses, transitioned to family, or passed leadership to others.

This is not a decision I take lightly. Many individuals have come through our doors with impressive resumes, only for us to discover that their skills, stamina, motives and/or passion for our mission were lacking.

In 2018, after 14 years of a slow revolving door, Rachel Foltz knocked on my door, brimming with passion for the people we serve. She and her support group expressed a desire to learn from CAMO to develop an NGO like CAMO. We asked if she was willing to undergo a six-month boot camp with the Honduras CAMO staff to understand what it takes to run a non-profit. She agreed, but then COVID hit, halting international travel until October 2022.

Her six-month boot camp began in the fall of 2022, covering administrative policy, marketing, operations, and the international counterpart system. Rachel found her place and continued to be deeply involved with CAMO and became fluent in Spanish in one year.

By March 2023, my heart was heavy with the realization that we lacked the necessary USA talent to lead CAMO in my absence. I had been closely observing Rachel, and during a weekly executive staff meeting in Honduras, I presented the idea of appointing her as the USA Assistant Director. The staff responded with big smiles and laughter, commenting, "We wondered when you would consider this; we love her and can work with her."



Rachel Foltz, Assistant Director of CAMO USA.

In June 2023, Rachel Foltz was asked to consider the position of Assistant Director of CAMO USA. It has now been a year, and unlike many others, she continues to improve, bringing new ideas, people, and passion to our organization.

Together, with the board of directors, we have launched a succession plan where Rachel Foltz will be mentored until November 2025, at which point she will be advanced to the Director of CAMO USA

after our joint strategic planning session scheduled for November 6-10.

I will then transition to a consulting role for the USA and continue to travel, focusing on governance between the two organizations, ensuring that the board of directors of Fundación CAMO and CAMO USA continue to work hand in hand.

I am excited, hopeful, and thankful to God for bringing us this blessing.

Strengthening CAMO: A Sustainable Path Forward

We have focused on the community infrastructure to provide opportunity, medical care and safety for the communities for years to come.



Now it's time to turn our eyes on our needs as an organization to maintain sustainability far into the future.

CAMO Honduras' current headquarters, built in 2003, is now bursting at the seams. Housing administrative, clinical, educational, warehouse, and office spaces for 60 employees, our facility is overwhelmed by the volume of medical services provided and the demands of the warehouse/distribution area, which uses 66% of the space.

This situation severely limits our ability to function efficiently, grow, and expand our vital life-saving services to the people of Honduras.

In a typical year, CAMO's clinics provide the following essential services:

6,059

Nutritional care, supplements, and vitamins to 6,059 malnourished children.

4,834

Prenatal care, including ultrasounds, for 4,834 pregnant women.

3,487

Medical services for 3,487 adults and children through our medical brigades in rural areas.

400

Vision-restoring surgical procedures for 400 of the 1,783 patients seen in the Eye Clinic.

1,219

Mobility regained for 1,219 children and adults through the Prosthesis and Orthotics Program.

285

Medications, electroencephalograms, and treatment for 285 children in CAMO's Neurology Program.

4,600

Dental care for 4,600 children through 115 rural mobile brigades and the Dental Clinic.

To continue and expand these essential services, we have launched the “Campaign to Strengthen CAMO’s Services & Distribution in Honduras,” aiming to secure \$2 million to expand our facilities and capabilities. This project will consist of three phases:

PHASE I 2025-2026

Build a new warehouse on a donated 1.47-acre site

- Three times larger than our current capacity with a receiving and shipping dock
- Expanded biomedical area and new Prosthetic and Wheelchair Lab
- Designed for future construction of two additional floors
- Revenue stream from prosthetic fabrication and warehouse rental space
- After phase one this will allow us to convert current warehouse space (21 feet high) into two floors

PHASE II 2026-2027

Construct a new second floor, transforming the existing warehouse space

- 11 clinics and diagnostic areas: nutrition, dentistry, dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, radiology, OB/GYN
- Sliding fee scale for services will generate revenue



PHASE III 2027-2028

Construct a new third floor, transforming the existing warehouse space

- Educational Center
- CAMO’s National Training Center for American Heart Association CPR and Advanced Life Support
- Continuing education courses for professional development in medical, primary education, and soft skills
- Conference area
- Rental of facility and course fees will generate revenue

COME JOIN US!

Please join our efforts to provide infrastructure that will impact many lives for the next 30 years. Your support will enable us to expand our capacity, improve our services, and continue to make a profound difference in the lives of Hondurans.

Together, we can build a stronger, healthier future for countless individuals and families.



Our current environment: Office space shared with 5 to 6 workstations; limited warehouse space; patients line our hallway.



Cornea Transplant Team Joins Counterpart in Honduras

RESTORING VISION, RESTORING HOPE

José Zerón, dedicated to agriculture and construction, suffered a life-changing accident in 2009 when a rebounding nail damaged his cornea, leaving him blind in his left eye.

“I struggled for five years without vision, unable to do many of my previous jobs,” José shared. His search for medical assistance led him to CAMO and the Robles Ophthalmology Center.

“At CAMO, they valued me as a human being and provided excellent care,” said José. Thanks to a corneal transplant brigade organized by CAMO and the Robles Ophthalmology Center, José received the surgery that restored his hope.

This event in Santa Rosa de Copán, coordinated by Ophthalmologist Dr. Laura Ponce, and supported by doctors from the University of San Francisco, provided corneal transplants for José and six others, giving them a new chance at vision. The Robles Ophthalmology Center will continue to follow these patients.

José’s story is just one example of the transformative impact that CAMO’s counterpart medical brigades have on individuals and families in Honduras. Your support can help us continue to provide life-changing surgeries and medical care to those in need.



José Zeron being evaluated one week after his corneal surgery.

Please consider making a donation to CAMO today. Together, we can restore vision, restore hope, and change lives.

Advancement in the Gastroenterology Program

When the gastroenterology program was abandoned during COVID, the need for dedicated specialists became clear.

Fortunately, Honduran gastroenterologists Dr. Víctor López and Dr. Candy Leiva stepped up, saving many lives of patients with digestive issues.

We are happy to announce that another pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr. Gabriela Duarte, joined the team on May 1, 2024. She is volunteering her expertise to ensure top-quality care for children with digestive system issues. We express our deep gratitude to these doctors for their dedication and service.

Top left: Dr. Candy Leiva, Gastroenterologist evaluating a patient.
Bottom left: Dr. Gabriela Duarte, Pediatric Gastroenterologist, providing medical assessments.



CAMO and Functionally Active Kids Foundation (FAKS)

This week, three Honduran children found hope and new opportunities thanks to CAMO's Prosthetics and Orthotics Program, in collaboration with the funding from the FAKS Foundation.

JAIRON GUTIÉRREZ: A Little Warrior from Trincheras

Eight-year-old Jairon Gutiérrez, diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, has been a CAMO patient since 2021. Hailing from a rural community, Jairon faces life with a smile. On June 17, he received Ground Reaction AFOs for both legs, significantly improving his ability to walk.

His aunt and guardian, María Deras, shared his progress, noting his love for toy cars, painting, and especially eating pancakes. The family hopes these new devices will provide him with more independence and opportunities for development.



BAYRON MEJÍA: Fighting to Reclaim His Life

Bayron Mejía's life drastically changed a year ago when a work accident resulted in the loss of his left leg due to an electric shock. After enduring severe burns and a transfemoral amputation, Bayron sought a new opportunity at CAMO.

On June 17, he received his first prosthesis, partially funded by FAKS and his mother's efforts. "This is the first time I will use a prosthesis. I feel nervous but very happy," said Bayron, who now dreams of studying and building a better future.



JOHAN COTO: Small Steps Toward a Great Future

Orlin Coto, known as Johan, is another example of the positive impact of the CAMO-FAKS partnership. Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Johan has received support from CAMO since 2019. This year, his old AFOs needed replacement to continue aiding his mobility.

Thanks to FAKS, Johan received new AFOs that will help him walk better. His mother, Glenda Mejía, a single mother working in the coffee harvest, expressed her gratitude for this support. Johan, full of energy and joy, smiled upon receiving his new devices.



Three brave children who have benefited from prosthetic limbs.



PROSTHETICS CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES

The FAKS Foundation will continue funding a child until they reach 18. At present they are supporting seven children with CAMO.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

The partnership between CAMO and the FAKS Foundation is transforming lives, providing children like Jairon, Bayron, and Johan with the mobility aids they need to lead fuller, more independent lives. Your support can help us continue making a profound difference.

Trade School Completion: A Story of Transformation

ETAOO is a non-profit trade school in Santa Rosa de Copán, Honduras, founded in 1989.

In 2003, it was an empty shell. In 2004, CAMO was asked to intervene and breathe life back into the school; to provide opportunities of training to students who had not finished high school or did not have the means to go to college.

Recognizing the need to reduce levels of juvenile delinquency and provide job training in the country, we focused on the areas of carpentry, cooking, electricity, welding and sewing. However, as time passed the educational offer has been expanded incorporating new training courses due to the educational demand and human resource needs in the Western area of Honduras.

In 2016, the infrastructure of this training center was too small to provide all the theoretical and practical training of the current courses. The trade school did not have the pedagogical conditions for an optimal teaching, the administrative offices share very limited spaces to perform daily work, classrooms were moved to the hallways to make room for other trade classes.

In response to the school's substantial growth, a strategic initiative was launched in 2017, with the mission of expanding the school's facilities by constructing two new buildings, modern workshop classrooms, and revitalizing the main building, enabling ETAOO to serve the community and continue fostering social progress.

July 24, 2024 the second building of the expansion project was inaugurated. Over 1,400 students receive training annually in areas including culinary arts, baking, bartending, barista, soap and candle making, graphic design, and more. Lucas Tabora, a barber who recently completed his training at the Trade School said, "After being unemployed, I started taking courses at the Trade School, which allowed me to start my own business in my hometown!" There are many graduates who echo this story.

We would like to thank the many donors for their support. Major funders for this project was the Woods Family Foundation, Noble Foundation, Burton Morgan Foundation, United Titanium.



Front view of the second building in the expansion project.



CPR training course for health professionals.

“CAMO...has been fundamental in guiding the vision of the Trade School towards a more accurate understanding of the region's needs and occupational demand.”

– Joseph Ruiz, Trade School's Executive Director

Impact of USA Shipments

In the last 12 months CAMO has shipped nine 40 foot containers to Honduras. The average container has 15 pieces of medical equipment, 1,300 boxes of supplies and is valued an average of \$294K per container.

Part of the Past and Will Live On in the Future

For the past 20 years, Dr. Jorge Romero has traveled to Honduras to train and educate in women's health, helping us develop our prenatal ultrasound and cryotherapy programs. He has also served two terms as CAMO USA board president.

Today, Dr. Romero has generously donated his entire clinic to CAMO, including four clinic rooms, an ultrasound, a colposcope, an autoclave, and more. These vital resources come just in time for our expansion project in Honduras. We are incredibly grateful for his years of training, care, and unwavering support!

Good Things from Our International Volunteer's Contacts!

We extend a huge thank you to our international volunteer, Michelle Wilberg, and the Golf Surgical Center and staff in Chicago for their generous donation of vital items, including operating room beds, stretchers, operating room supplies, and much more. These contributions are essential to our mission and will greatly enhance our ability to provide quality care.

This donation would not have been possible without the dedication of one of our star volunteers, Tom Kress. Tom drove our 16-foot box truck to Chicago to transport these valuable items. We also want to express our gratitude to the Wayne County Foundation, which assisted with the funding needed to purchase this vehicle. Their support is crucial in enabling us to continue our life-saving work.

These combined efforts underscore the importance of community and collaboration. Every donation and act of service helps us provide better healthcare and support to those in need. Thank you to all who make our mission possible.

Bolivar Elementary School Auction

In March, Bolivar Elementary School auctioned all the items in their building. A wonderful donor paid for 200+ school desks to be donated to CAMO.

The first 50 desks arrived in Honduras last Friday and were delivered to a rural school Saturday morning. This school is special because various Honduran teachers *volunteer* their time to educate adults who want to receive their GED. These classes were held in kindergarten rooms with the adults squeezing into kindergarten desks and chairs to continue their education.

Thanks to this wonderful donation, the students enjoyed their first class in their new desks, which are much more comfortable. Check out the amazing transformation!



Dr. Jorge Romero giving his generous donation of medical equipment.



Michelle Wilberg and Golf Surgical Center Staff with our volunteer Tom Kress.



BEFORE

Kindergarten desks in the school that benefited from the project.



AFTER

New school desks delivered and now in use.

Developing Respiratory Therapy in Honduras

The profession of Respiratory Therapy (RT) does not exist in Honduras, a void highlighted during the pandemic.

For the past decade, CAMO has advocated for the RT profession with Honduran universities and the Ministry of Health. In October 2022, CAMO met with the appointed Minister of Health, Dr. Manuel Matheu, and the Chancellor of UNITEC, both of whom supported developing an RT curriculum.

In 2022, CAMO partnered with the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) to develop this curriculum. Thanks to KUMC and counterparts Karen Schell, Wendy Castro, and Ellen Becker for their support in curriculum development, equipment, and bringing new respiratory therapists to Honduras to promote this development.

Every six months, workshops are held with private and public universities in Honduras, involving professors who will become RT trainers. Five Honduran professors visited KUMC in April 2023 for an international observation program. They gained hands-on experience with respiratory therapy practices, toured facilities, and attended classes. They also presented at the Global Health Conference, discussing the potential for an RT program in Honduras.

This experience enriched their clinical skills and facilitated connections with global health professionals, crucial for developing a respiratory therapy career in Honduras and ultimately improving patient care and health outcomes in their community. Projected implementation of the curriculum is for 2025.

Thanks to KUMC and counterparts Karen Schell, Wendy Castro, and Ellen Becker for their support in curriculum development, equipment, and bringing new respiratory therapists to Honduras to promote this development.



Five CEUTEC faculty members at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) learning about Respiratory Therapy Programs to replicate them.

Open Doors to Knowledge

CAMO's Literacy Program has expanded by delivering a library with 112 reading books to Rafael Bardales School in El Ingenio.

The students' excitement was palpable as many began reading immediately!

Since 2012, CAMO has been working with a committee and donors to enhance education in the poorest rural schools in Honduras. Starting with just five schools, the initiative has expanded to support 16 schools, benefiting 1,715 children across four departments.

The program initially invested \$89 per child, which funded the purchase of textbooks, library resources, and teacher training in the pedagogy of these textbooks. Annually, an additional \$40 per child is allocated for health screenings, including visual, dental, hearing, and nutritional assessments. Appropriate preventive and corrective care is then provided based on these screenings.

This initiative was launched in response to the severe neglect of education in rural areas, where access to Wi-Fi and other remote learning options is unavailable.



Kids from the Literature Project Schools engaged with the reading books.



PLANNED GIVING SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE TO CAMO

Consider a Planned Gift to CAMO and ensure the people in the greatest need receive ongoing support for years to come. By including CAMO in your estate planning, you can make a lasting impact. Recently, we received a surprise bequest of \$90,000 through the Wayne County Community Foundation from an individual we had never met. This generous donation will help secure the future of CAMO's services for thousands of people.

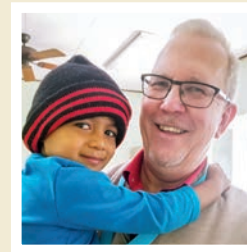
If you've included CAMO in your estate plans, please let us know. We want to thank you and ensure your wishes are met. Your contributions are vital to our mission, and we encourage others to follow this example. Together, we can continue to make a difference in countless lives.

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
Wayne County Community Foundation;
(330) 262-3877,
Name Fund: CAMO Opportunity Fund

Lisa Lynch
The Columbus Foundation;
(614) 251-4000,
Name Fund: Central American Medical
Outreach Growth Fund

Brenda Cummins
The Cleveland Foundation;
(216) 615-7158,
Name Fund: Central American Medical/
Education/ Development Fund



Ron Taggart,
CAMO Board President

REMEMBER CAMO IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Give a gift that keeps on giving: a planned bequest to CAMO is a way to guarantee that the people of Honduras will receive the help they need for years to come.

Ron Taggart, CAMO Board President, states, "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."

Fighting Hunger and Malnutrition: A Successful Campaign

The month of May was dedicated to a virtual campaign against hunger and malnutrition.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Deborah and Dr. Joe Marino, we successfully raised \$16,850.

However, this program is always in need of funding as many children with malnutrition require medical intervention.

Please continue to support this vital initiative. Your contributions make a significant impact in saving and improving children's lives.

Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support!

19TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE RESULTS

THE SPONSORS OF THE EVENT WERE:



Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and golfers for making this year's golf scramble another success. You are vital in our continuing effort to bring hope to the forgotten in Honduras. We successfully raised \$23,070, with 24 teams participating, and we received the support of 63 sponsors and donors.

Corporate & Lunch

Sponsors:
Dr. Dona Alvarez (Garrett Orthopedics)
Patrick Maloney & Dr. Mary Boylan Maloney
Dr. John & Judy Thomas
WKLM Bruce Wallace
Wooster Community Hospital

Breakfast:

Seaman Corporation
Buehler's

Cart Sponsor:

Paul & Ruth Crowley
The Apple Creek Banking Company
Mike Faught State Farm
Hummel Group
Ron Taggart

Raffle & Prizes:

Ruth Brown
Certified Angus Beef
The Leaf
Longhorn Steakhouse
Meathead's Union Tavern
Mrs. J's Restaurant
Old Carolina Barbecue
Que Pasa Mexican Restaurant

Proximity & Skills Games

Sponsors:
Business Underwriters Associates
D+S Distribution
Phil Mariola
Mennonite Mutual
Wayne Savings Community Bank
Wooster Recycling Ltd.

Water & Snacks:

Ted & Sue Crawford

Hot dogs at the Turn:

3D Meats

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Michael's Bakery

Hole Sponsors

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HSH Outdoor Advertising
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Justin Haislip State Farm
Lehman's Hardware
Lee & Deb Miller
McIntire, Bradham & Sleek
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Orrville Cycling & Fitness
Rea & Associates
Route 44 Storage
Runion's Furniture
The Commercial Savings Bank
Tillison's Fitness Warehouse
Tongue Sweepers
Veterinary Wellness Partners
Voice Solutions
Wayne & Pat Bare
Weeman Concrete
Wooster Glass Company
Wooster Motor Ways
Wil-San Farm

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

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



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DONATE HERE



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.

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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** 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.