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**Canadian Central American
Relief Effort**

2012 Annual Report



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Who We Are

CCAMRE Vision Statement

CCAMRE is a community of Canadians working in partnership with a community of Central Americans resulting in improved lives in both regions.

CCAMRE Mission Statement

CCAMRE focuses on initiatives that enhance the capabilities of communities to become self-sufficient.

CCAMRE Mandate Statement

To share our resources of skills, knowledge and funds to work in:

- Relief effort
- Education and awareness building
- Partnership development
- Fund-raising
- Community Planning and Economic Development

CCAMRE Board of Directors (Current)

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Hilda Rossi | President and Founder |
| Marilyn Hallgren | Treasurer |
| Andy McCormick | Board Chair |
| Eva Carlin | Web Site |
| Carlos Sanchez | Economic Development |



The Annual Meeting

Canadian Central American Relief Effort

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

3034 Palstan Rd. Suite M3, Mississauga

June 23, 2013

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Chair |
| 2. Acceptance of Agenda | Chair |
| 3. President's Opening Remarks | Hilda Rossi |
| 4. Approval of the 2012 AGM Minutes | Chair |
| 5. 2011 Reports | |
| • Projects | Andy McCormick |
| • Mission 2012 | Andy McCormick |
| • Fund Raising | Hilda Rossi |
| • Financial | Marylin Hallgren |
| 6. Motion for Acceptance of 2012 Reports | Chair |
| 7. Approval of 2012 Financial Statement | Marylin Hallgren |
| 8. Other Business | Chair |
| 9. Closing Remarks | Hilda Rossi |
| 10. Adjournment | |

Letter from the President

2012 has been a complex year, with new challenges, courageous new goals and an updated plan which is enabling us to meet CCAMRE's goals. This was made possible through the devoted efforts of our Board of Directors, supporters, and the many volunteers who have donated their time, commitment, and hard work. For a President and Founder it is a marvellously joyous feeling to see how far we have come and how our objectives have been fulfilled, since 1998. Wow! However, there is still a long path ahead of us before the Mayan Ch'ortí communities have access to education, health and economic development. Still, things are improving; a few years ago children could not continue their education past grade 4. Now, with CCAMRE's help, some of these children have fulfilled their dreams to have a high school education. CCAMRE's biggest achievement has been a young lady from Timushan, Johana Peres. With the help of CCAMRE, in October, 2012 Johana completed her Degree to become a Registered Nurse. Johana is now working at the General Hospital in the province of Zacapa. She will be an inspiration for the youth of the Merendon Mountains.

For mission 2012, the weather was not the best, but the rain and treacherous roads didn't stop our mission team from travelling to the mountains to help the communities of the Mayan Chorti by working on projects and achieving the goals we set for this year's mission!

For this year's mission we had 16 mission members, including myself, who donated time, commitment, love, and talent to make a difference in the lives of the people in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala



The Medical and Dental Teams worked hard to give health care to the people of 9 villages. Headed by Nurse Julie Cordasco of Burlington, Dr. Richard Morris from Sudbury, Dr. Keith Millar from Stoney Creek, Dr. Russell Grover from Hamilton, Guatemalan Doctors and helpers worked rigorously every day. At each village the patients were lined up waiting for their turn to be seen by a Doctor. Every year the people of the villages ask us to please come back and continue with our help.

One highlight of 2012 was the Sponsor a Child Program that enabling the start of a Breakfast Program for 149 school age children of Volcancito. CCAMRE truly believes that nutrition



plays an important part in the development of a child. This programme is possible because of the many Sponsors who believe that helping a child is to help the world because they are our future.

I personally would like to express my appreciation to the calendar sponsors, donors and supporters here Canada and in Guatemala, their support is invaluable as it helped us to care on with our help to communities Mayan Ch'ortí in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala.

Special thanks to Toni Primavera, for her support throughout the years, she did a great job coordinating CCAMRE's Walk/Run in August; to Cecilia Bradley for again organizing a stunning Grand Latin Evening event at Le Treport Banquet Hall in March.

The year ahead will be challenging, since many more little villages in the Merendon Mountains have requested our help. As a young organization, our goals are ambitious but, with a committed group of individuals, such as you, working with a common vision, I truly believe our goals are attainable. They will create new and exciting opportunities for us as an organization and for the communities Mayan Ch'ortí and the people of Guatemala as a whole.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference in the lives of the humble people of the Merendon Mountains. With your support, we will help them to become self-sufficient. That is CCAMRE's mission.

Kindest regards,

Hilda Rossi

President CCAMRE



Minutes – CCAMRE General Meeting, May 27, 2012

Location: 3034 Palstan Rd. Suite M3, Mississauga, Ontario.

Board Members Attending: Hilda Rossi, Marylin Hallgren, Andy McCormick, Carlos Sanchez, Julie Cordasco

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Andy McCormick.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion by Carlos Sanchez, second by Riccardo Rossi that the agenda be accepted as presented. **Carried**

3. President's Opening Remarks

Hilda Rossi, introduces the Board of Directors, express her thanks for their dedication, commitment and work to CCAMRE. Expressed thanks to the volunteers and especially to Cecelia Bardsley who has been a mission member for the last 6 years, and for her work organizing the Grand Latin Event and silent auction. Thanks also go to Tony Primavera for such a great job on the Run/Walk fund raising event. Hilda firmly emphasized the importance of volunteers for the success of the CCAMRE mission and programs.

Hilda Rossi described the journey that CCAMRE has gone through in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala during the last 14 years.

4. Approval of the 2010 AGM Minutes

Motion by Cecilia Bardsley, second Carlos Sanchez that the 2011 AGM Minutes be accepted as submitted. **Carried**

5. 2011 Reports

- a. Projects and Mission: The 2011 mission report prepared and submitted by Ana Paredes was read into the minutes by Andy McCormick. Cecelia Bardsley reported on a new sewing program that was started in Pena Blanca involving 23 local people. Cloth sewing machines and other sewing tools are maintained in a dedicated storage room within the Community Centre.
- b. Fund Raising: Julie Cordasco talked about fund raising and how important it is for everyone's participation and contribution for it to succeed.
- c. Financial Report: Marylin Hallgren reviewed and explained the financial reports and respond to various queries from attendees.



Motion by Julie Cordasco, seconded by Hilda Rossi, the Mission and Project Reports as written in the Annual Report are accepted as submitted.

Carried

6. Approval of 2011 Financial Statement

Marylin Hallgren presented the 2011 financial reports, responding to questions from attendees.

Motion by Carlos Sanchez, seconded by Cecelia Bardsley that the financial reports as outlined in the Annual Report be accepted.

Carried

7. Adjournment

The Life and Work of CCAMRE

MISSION REPORT

The mission focused on 9 key programs:

1. Dental Program
2. Medical Program
3. Scholarship Program
4. Child Sponsorship Program
5. Breakfast program
6. Stove Program
7. Sewing Program
8. Fertilizer Program
9. Seniors Program
10. Children's Programming

This year's mission was spread over 4 weeks with Dental & Medical programs being the primary focus in the first 2 weeks of March 3 to 18 and the other programs in the second 2 weeks of March 17 to April 1. The new Breakfast and Child Sponsorship programs were managed across the full 4 weeks. Following are commentaries on the key programs.

Dental Program

This year the Mayan Ch'ortí were very lucky to receive the services of three dentists in 2 weeks. For the first week our dentists included Dr. Richard Morris from Sudbury and Dr. Keith Millar from Stoney Creek. Dr. Morris is a veteran when it comes to CCAMRE dental mission having come to Guatemala four times. Dr. Millar was a first time CCAMRE mission member but a veteran with other humanitarian organizations. With the help of a mix of Canadian and Guatemalan assistants the dentists saw 201 patients and extracted 400 teeth. The Guatemalan helpers were Dr. Ivette Amarilis Gálvez Ruiz (Guatemala City dental student doing her 8 month final placement), Marvin, Fidel and Alfredo. The second week was equally successful. Dr. Millar stayed on while Dr. Morris departed and Dr. Russell Grover from Hamilton arrived. They saw 193 patients and extracted 323 teeth. The Canadian helpers were Heidi and Kristina Grover. Thank you to everyone for their compassion and care of the dental patients.

Medical Program

This year there was only one Canadian Nurse, Julie Cordasco. The doctors who worked with Julie were Dr. Johanna Ayala and Dr. Antonio Salguero. All together the medical team saw and treated 479 patients in 5 days which works out to approximately 95 patients per day. The need for appropriate medical help in the Merendon Mountains is great. The people, including children and seniors, are mostly malnourished and suffer from respiratory ailments with parasites due to the unclean water. It is truly very sad and gives the feeling of hopelessness as these people walk for 1 to 2 hours once they know that medical help is coming to a nearby village.

Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Program has been operating for ten years now and continues to be viewed as one of the most important programs that we provide. In 2012 we supported 26 students from Timushan, Pena Blanca and Volcancito to continue their education at the high school level. The scholarships we provide range from 2,300 to 3,300 Quetzals (roughly C\$300 to C\$430) depending on the level they are studying at. This financial support enables the students to pay for uniforms, books and supplies, transportation, one meal (usually lunch), and in some cases room and board. The support does not pay all the costs but it is certainly the major portion and these children could not afford to go otherwise.

Over the 10 years a number of students have graduated either from Junior or Senior high and have been able to find jobs such as teachers or clerics in the Municipality. The most notable event however is Johana Perez graduating from University as a fully qualified Registered Nurse. She is bringing her qualifications and skills to work at the general hospital in Zacapa, one of the key hospitals that support the La Union region.

Child Sponsorship & Breakfast Programs

This program started at the end of 2011 and it has run a full scholar year on 2012. It has been a great success, on December 2012 we had 28 children sponsored, and we fed 150 children a nutritious breakfast.

The purpose of this program is to provide elementary school children of Volcancito the necessary tools to learn, grow and prepare for high school. Volcancito has eighty four families. The average number of children per family is from three to ten. We have selected one child per family to be sponsored. To ensure a fair selection, we ask the parents to pick the child through a lottery system. The name chosen will be the recipient of the sponsorship; however the food that we provide to the sponsor child it will benefit the whole family. In order to encourage education, we required that each child that participates in this program must be registered in school.

Thank you to Canadian sponsors who responded as we were able to sponsor 28 children and we had a waiting list of 22 other children. It costs \$350 per year to sponsor a child with CCAMRE. The funds are allocated directly towards the needs of the sponsored children and their family. The Sponsor A Child Program (SACP) provides the sponsored child with a basket of non-perishable food, fruits and vegetables, vitamins, school uniforms, school supplies, clothing and personal hygiene items; these provisions are given three times during the year. Also, The SACP funds the Breakfast Program; the breakfast is prepared by the sponsored child's parents, under the leadership of Elisa the Volcancito coordinator of this program. The breakfast program provides nutritious meals to 150 school children in Volcancito. Prior to this program most of the children used to go to school with an empty

stomach. Sometimes the provided breakfast is the only real food they will have for the entire day.

We are very grateful to all sponsors for supporting CCAMRE and making a difference in the life of these needed children. Our goal is to get a sponsor for each selected children.

Stove Program

The 2012 mission, with support from S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation saw the start of the Stove Program. The purpose of the program is to replace the open fires that many of the people maintain all the time in their homes with a compact fully enclosed and properly vented stove. The primary benefit is better health for the people as it eliminates the need for living in a smoke filled room. Respiratory disease is a big problem in the area and this will go a long way to minimizing that issue. The new enclosed stoves also reduce the need for firewood by 30% to 50% while at the same time providing a good surface upon which to cook.

In late 2011 we sent 6 representatives from Timushan, Pena Blanca, Volcancito and Campanario to Antigua, Guatemala to be trained by S.H.A.R.E. Subsequently S.H.A.R.E. provided \$2,000 and 2 expert builders who worked with the leaders in La Union to teach them how to build the stove. As part of this initiative 2 stoves were built in each of Timushan, Pena Blanca and Volcancito. The local people will now show others how to build the stoves to ensure the expertise is spread as widely as possible. The material cost of building a stove is Approximately \$250.00

Sewing Program

This is the second year that Cecilia Bardsley (Sewing Project Coordinator) has been teaching the people in Peña Blanca and she had the pleasure of working with Zoila Salguero for the two weeks. Their work was challenging due to the fact that they needed to share the space with three classes being taught in the same room. So as not to disturb the other classes some women sewed by hand and a great many of items from the sewing supplies were organized. The group was smaller this year making it much easier to teach. They made three types of lined handbags, a hanging organizer, and two different styles of blouses. Though the group members have limited reading comprehension there is a school teacher amongst them whom I hope will be able to assist and reinforce using the patterns until everyone is comfortable with their learned skills. The two sewing machines often jam or break down but fortunately Abel, the group leader, is becoming quite proficient at their repair. We are pleased to say the group is well organized and has sufficient supplies for the year. The other sewing group in Volcancito is also well supplied and some are presently sewing school uniforms.

Leslie Barmania, our new mission member, was busy teaching this sewing group the new craft of knitting.

Fertilizer Program

This project has been in place since our first mission in 2001 and was started in Timushan but since been extended to Pena Blanca, Volcancito, Campanario Avansada, and Taguayni. The

fertilizer is used to plant beans and corn usually around May and June. The communities depend on this project as the means to plant and grow these crops to support themselves and their families.

Mixtamal Program – Peña Blanca and Volcancito

The Mixtamal, or Corn Grinding Program is one that has been ongoing since 2004 when the grinding sheds and equipment were built and installed. At the time of the 2012 mission neither of the corn grinders were operating, in part that the people felt the cost of having corn ground was too much and in part because the grinder in Volcancito needs repairs. The repairs were authorized and discussion took place such that the grinding fees were reduced to Q10 to make it much more affordable.

Fund Raising Report

CCAMRE's fundraising initiatives would not be a success without the work done by Cecilia Bardsley and Toni Primavera. Cecilia is the chair of the Grand Latin Event and Toni the chair of the Run/Walk. These 2 events were extremely successful and we thank these ladies for their commitment and hard work.

The theme of the Grand Latin Evening was Building for the Future. CCAMRE chose to raised funds to help build a community skills centre in the village of Pena Blanca, Guatemala. The committee decided to have a full sit down dinner served with wine at the Le Treport Banquet Hall in Mississauga and Duff lets Fine Baked Goods donated 26 cranberry cheesecakes to the delight of our guests. The food was delicious however the process was slow and affected the timing of other events throughout the evening. Our guests were entertained with the live Latin music of Azucar and treated to a wonderful dance performance by Arthur Murray Dance Studio Toronto. Joe Scire of Joe s No Frills, Dufferin Mall donated black reusable shopping bags with assorted items inside for all our guests which were placed on the elegant satin covered chairs of Le Treport. The live auction had 5 exceptional items, the silent auction had over 100 items and the 50-50 draw reached a new level.

Recognition plaques were presented to Arthur Murray Dance Studio-Toronto and to Le Treport for their outstanding support and contribution to the fundraising efforts of CCAMRE. Although we had fewer guests than in the past CCAMRE achieved tremendous financial success from this event.

A great deal of delegated time, planning and preparation goes into an event such as this and the reward is a successful evening which it was. The volunteers on the committee can never be thanked enough without them it would not happen. Thank you for a job well done!

Cecilia Bardsley

Gala Co-ordinator

August 27, 2012 was a wonderful day for CCAMRE's annual "The Children of Merendon Mountains Run/Walkathon". With great weather, a good turn-out, the picturesque scenery of Erindale Park and the Credit River and ample refreshments, the event was a sounding success. The primary objective of the Run/Walkathon is raise funds for educational scholarships for children in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala. This annual event enables us to provide scholarships to more children every year. Without your continued support, sponsorship and help, CCAMRE would not be able to give these children an opportunity for a better life. Thank you all for your generosity and I look forward to this year's Run/Walkathon.

Toni Primavera

CCAMRE Run/Walkathon Coordinator

Our Appreciation

A heartfelt thank you from CCAMRE's Board of Directors to our members, sponsors, and supporters

In Canada:

- Dr. Diamond and Yasmin Rattansi of Sherwood Photocopy, who throughout the years has sponsored our Walkathon/Run by printing our event pamphlets free of charge,
- Mr. John Cipressi of Le Treport Banquet Hall, who continues to donate the premises for our yearly Grand Latin Dinner and Dance,
- The Rotary Club Mississauga Airport for their continuing support on our ongoing projects to help the Mayan Ch'ortí in the Merendon Mountains.
- To SHARE, for their support to our new Stove Project. This project will help to protect the environment and to improve the health of the natives in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala.
- The Canadian media for their help in sharing our work and events with the community.
- Ms. Kelly Arnott VR-PRO and Running Room for the support of our Run, Walk and Stroller Roll.
- Ms. Eva Moran and Ms. Myrna Veliz for their continuing contribution support to maintain CCAMRE's Website and the Newsletter.
- To Mr. David M. Dunlap of G.F.THOMPSON CO. LTD. For his generous contribution to our cause.
- Ms. Mabel Lim, for her generous contribution to the Senior Project in Volcancito
- The honourable Mr. GEORGES DE LA ROCHE Ambassador of Guatemala in Ottawa, Canada



- Ms Huda Abbas Executive Director of Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel MIAG
- Health Partners International of Canada
- Special thank you to the companies who sponsored CCAMRE's calendar and our Walkathon
 - ROUTES Transport International INC.
 - Blessed Sacrament Parish of Hamilton
 - Grover Dental Group
 - Assante Wealth Management
 - Gina Bet of WESTEND TRAVEL
 - RZCD Law Firm, Geoff Cauchi L.L.B
 - BMO Nesbitt Burns, Dave McFarlane, CFP.CIM
 - BGS, Fabio D. Brussolo, CA
 - Oakville, Sewing Center, Linda Peel-Devitt

In Guatemala:

- Mr. Santos Vasquez, CCAMRE's Coordinator in La Union, Zacapa
- Elida Arroyo Galdamez, CCAMRE Coordinator in La Union, Zacapa
- Lic. Arely Camey, CCAMRE's Representative in Guatemala.
- Mrs. Marianela Cordon Salguero, Mayor of La Union, Zacapa, Guatemala.
- The Community Health Center of La Union, Zacapa
- The University of San Carlos of Guatemala in Guatemala City.
- Dr. Fernando Ancheta for his support with the Dental Project, University of San Carlos of Guatemala
- Dr. Osbel Vargas for his commitment to work in the mission.
- Dr. Johanna Ayala, Director of the Health Centre of La Union.
- Dr. Jaime A Guerra Castaneda, Ministry of Health of Zacapa
- Dr. Rogelio Garcia, of La Union Zacapa, for his support to the Dental Project
- Dr. Antonio Salguero, Medical Surgeon of Gualán, Zacapa, for his support to the medical Project
- Mrs. Zoila Salguero, helped with sewing program, since 2000.