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Canadian Central American Relief Effort

2014 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
- Health
- Partnership development
- Fund-raising
- Community Planning and Economic Development

CCAMRE Board of Directors (Current)

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Hilda Rossi | President and Founder |
| Cecilia Bardsley | Secretary |
| Marylin Hallgren | Treasurer |
| Roy Baker | Economic Development |
| Eva Carlin | Web Site and Sponsor a Child Program |
| Carlos Sanchez | Economic Development |
| Narendra C Patel | Membership and Finance support |



2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Canadian Central American Relief Effort

3034 Palstan Rd. Suite M3, Mississauga, ON

June 20, 2015

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of 2014 AGM
4. President's Report
5. Projects Report
6. Presentation of 2014 Financial Statements
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Motion to re-appoint Accountant Support
9. Power Point Presentation of CCAMRE's work in Guatemala
10. Adjournment



Minutes – CCAMRE General Meeting, June 21 2014

2013 Annual Meeting

Location 3034 Palstan Rd. Suite M3. Mississauga, Ontario

Board Members Attending: Hilda Rossi, Marylin Hallgren, Andy McCormick, Carlos Sanchez, Eva Carlin, Roy Baker, Cecilia Bardsley

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Andy McCormick. New attendees were welcomed.

2. **Acceptance of Agenda**

Motion to accept agenda as presented, moved by Cecilia Bardsley seconded by Eva Carlin. CARRIED

3. **Approval of the 2012 AGM Minutes**

Motion made to accept the 2012 Minutes as correct and accurate, moved by Cecilia Bardsley and seconded by Carlos Sanchez. CARRIED

4. **President's Report**

Hilda gave a brief history of the inception of CCAMRE from 1998 and the working partnership with Rosie DeBiasi, with the fundraising efforts of the organization. Hilda mentioned the names and roles of the various board members, highlighting their strengths and hard work ethics.

Hilda mentioned the possible cancellation of a mission in 2015 to Guatemala due to the possible danger with the upcoming elections.

She encouraged the participation of the members stating "If you have the will, you have the time." The tremendous aid and hope CCAMRE provides the people of the Merendon Mountains is worth the time.

Andy McCormick applauded Hilda's strong work ethics and recognized all the work she has done. He mentioned how she has nurtured contacts in Guatemala locally, provincially, nationally and with the embassy. She recently sent a letter to the Board of Education to hire teachers who graduated in the local villages, not from outside of the area.



5. 2013 Reports

Reports for Projects, Mission and Fundraising were read by Andy McCormick and Roy Baker from the General Meeting booklet which all attendees had.

6. Acceptance of the Reports

Marilyn Hallgren motioned to accept the reports as read, seconded by Eva Carlin.
CARRIED

7. Financial Statements for 2013

Marilyn provided a comprehensive report sheet to all those attending the meeting. Donations are being made to specific areas and projects thus new ledgers. She explained the movement of funds within the projects and the reasons for deficits and excess revenue. The accounting can be difficult as the reporting from Guatemala is not always up to date. Funds raised and allocated for specific projects are in a trust fund for use when needed. The CCAMRE Outreach held during the Christmas holiday period was an added financial benefit to the projects.

8. Acceptance of Financial Statements

Roy Bake motioned to accept the financial statements as presented, seconded by Carlos Sanchez. CARRIED

9. Director Elections

Andy McCormick requested to step down from re-election to the board and as acting chair. He will continue to hold the position of Director of the Scholarship Program.

Hilda Rossi motioned to re-appoint Carlos Sanchez as a Board Member for another three year period commencing with this Board Meeting. Seconded by Cecilia Bardsley. Carlos Sanchez accepted. CARRIED

10. Replacement By-laws

After a brief explanation and discussion with members

Hilda Rossi motioned that the updated By-laws, approved by the CCAMRE Board and dated January 18, 2014, be accepted as the official by-law of the Canadian Central American Relief Effort. Approval of the By-laws also includes approval of the Articles of Continuance that accompany the By-laws. Seconded by Carlos Sanchez. CARRIED

11. Other Business

Draft pamphlets for the September 13, 2014 Run/Walk were handed out and members were encouraged to support the event.



12. Adjournment

Marilyn Hallgren moved to adjourn the Annual General Meeting for 2013, seconded by Rosie DeBiasi. CARRIED



CCAMRE Letter from the President and Founder

2014 began with CCAMRE attaining a huge success!

As President and Founder of CCAMRE I am comfortable in saying that despite many setbacks CCAMRE has been reaching its goals and for that I must thank the members of the Board of Directors. Their commitment and dedication to the cause is commendable. Thanks also go out to the Fundraising Committee members, under the leadership to Cecilia Bardsley, our Gala Coordinator and Toni Primavera, our Run/Walkathon Coordinator, as their perseverance and hard work is admirable. Our events have been a great success.

Fundraising is so important because without funds we cannot support our projects and



programs in Guatemala. Our thanks also go out to all the Mission Members, who travel to Guatemala to participate on a journey of hard work and dedication to help others. They are truly remarkable. I have strong faith that with our combined efforts, CCAMRE will continue to grow and the recognition of our work will also grow and be seen by many throughout the world. I continue to look forward with excitement to the coming 2015 – 2016 year in which we will expand the boundaries of our work with the people of Guatemala, especially the Mayan Chortí of the Merendon Mountains.

As President and Founder, I am joyous 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 Chortí communities have access to a good 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. At the moment we are supporting 38 youth. CCAMRE's biggest achievement has been a young lady from Timushan, Johana Peres (I always repeat this story as it is CCAMRE pride) With the help of CCAMRE, in October, 2012 Johana Perez (in this picture with me) from Timushan completed her Degree to become a Registered Nurse. Johana is now working at the General Hospital in the province of Zacapa, as a Director of the maternity ward. She will be an inspiration for all the young in the Merendon Mountains.



The year ahead will be challenging, since many more little villages in the Merendon Mountains have requested our help, specifically in scholarships. As a small 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. We will create new and exciting opportunities for us as an organization and for the communities Mayan Chortí 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 our combined support, we can succeed in helping the communities in those mountains become self-sufficient. That is CCAMRE's mission.

Kindest regards,

Hilda Rossi
President CCAMRE

hildarossi45@gmail.com



The Life and Work of CCAMRE

MISSION 2014 REPORT



Humanitarian Mission 2014 to Guatemala

On March 22nd. eleven volunteers left the comfort of this beautiful land Canada on a journey to help others. The humanitarian mission worked tirelessly for two weeks, enduring the heat, dust and many physical and mental difficulties. The only time the communities in those mountains see a Physician or Dentist is when CCAMRE arrives. We attended to more than 1000 patients in 8 days. We could see the happiness in the natives' faces at our arrival. The culmination of our mission was the inauguration of the two classrooms for the school in Timushan, built with funds generated from our CCAMRE and Rotary Club Mississauga Airport Run/Walkathon last September. We are appreciative to the Guatemalan people, Government institutions, Minister of Health and the Guatemalan Embassy in Ottawa for facilitating our work in Guatemala.

Mission 2014 Highlights:

- Dental and Medical program.
- Inauguration of two classrooms in Timushan, thanks to funds from CCAMRE and the Rotary Club Mississauga –Airport 2013 Run and Walkathon
- Sewing of uniforms for all the elementary school children
- Evaluation of the Sponsor A Child and Breakfast Program
- Evaluation of the new stoves built

By Hilda Rossi President and Founder: hildarossi45@gmail.com



Dental Program



Dr. Grover, Dr. Millar, Dr. Morris, Heidi Grover and Lilia Cozzarini with the help of 2 local doctors, Dr. Ivette Amarilis Gálvez and Dr. Rogelio Garcia, this 2014 mission was extraordinary and the dental care program was delivered with grand success.

They worked up to 10 hours a day providing much-needed dental care, alleviating pain for the hundreds of patients they treated. Working in less than ideal conditions, the dentists and

their assistants worked outdoors, at local community centres from dawn until dusk.

Medical Program

Dr. Yohana Ayala, Dr. Antonio Salguero, and Johana Perez travelled to the Merendon Mountains to provide medical care to people who otherwise do not see doctors for ailments, nor do they have access to medications. CCAMRE Team provided medication and attended to more than 800 patients.

Scholarship Program

The scholarship Program, operating in its 12th year is supporting 32 students from the villages of Timushan, Peña Blanca and Volcancito. Of the 32 students in the program, 26 are in Junior High covering grades 7, 8, 9 and 6 are in Senior High covering grades 10, 11 and 12. The students in Junior High receive 2,300 quetzals while those in Senior High receive 3,300 Quetzals. This C.\$300 or C. \$400 respectively is given to the families at stages throughout the school year. This financial support enables students to pay for uniforms, books, supplies, transportation and appropriate meals. The support does not pay all the costs but is sufficient to enable the students to continue in school. The photograph shows students from Timushan with their parents.

Andy McCormick, Scholarship Coordinator,
andymccormick@canadiancamre.org





Sponsor a child & Breakfast Programs



This program started at the end of 2011 and we are seeing wonderful results, as we can easily see children more alert and interested in learning and playing. Children look forward to go to school because of the breakfast they receive. Also we are engaging the parents, specially the moms, to prepare the breakfast, giving them a sense of community and collaboration.

By the end of December 2014 we had 40 children sponsored, from which 4 of them have moved to high school and automatically they have been placed in the sponsorship program. We provided nutritious breakfast to about 150 school children. The purpose of this program is to avail elementary school children of Volcancito the necessary tools to learn, grow and prepare for high school. In order to encourage education, we required that each child that participates in this program must be registered and attend school. In the last humanitarian mission, our volunteers visited each child's family; all the homes visited were mud adobe with either tin or thatched roofs. The families expressed thanks and gratefulness for the support given to their child and to the entire family. All parents want their children to continue with their education. Thanks to our sponsors, CCAMRE is making a difference in many lives and opening the doors to choices for many children.

Eva Carlin Sponsor a Child Program and Breakfast Director, eva258@live.com

Senior's Program

This program is supported by a woman from Toronto who has a soft spot for the elders. At the present time we have 12 seniors in the program. Each senior on the program received a wood efficient stove; as well they received their food, hygiene supplies and items, 4 times a year. Dr. Antonio Salguero from Gualan visited and attended the seniors and gave them medicine and vitamins. This program is a huge success as the seniors are receiving good nutrition and care. Our main goal is to make the seniors comfortable and healthy. We encouraged the families to take care of the elders.

hildarossi45@gmail.com

Stove Program



During the CCAMRE mission to The Merendon Mountains in 2014 volunteers made an inspection of 95% of the installed new stoves and found the project to be successful. However, we found it necessary to remind the villagers that the new stoves only need one third of the amount of wood compared to the old stoves.

The villagers notice an improvement in their health, mainly in their eyes and lungs, due to the fact that they are no longer breathing in the thick black smoke from the old stoves.

We thank our major donor “The Share Agriculture Foundation” for their support, also our CCAMRE supporters who have donated to this project, as well as the many Canadian citizens who have donated a stove in lieu of Christmas gift to a loved one.

We are continuing with this programme in 2015 and will need donations, especially as the cost has risen due to the fall of our Canadian Dollar

Roy Baker, Economic Development, Director, roy@canadiancamre.org



Sewing Program



On the mission 2014 we started the uniform program in Volcancito. Abel Nufio from Pena Blanca was the coordinator of this program with the support of Ms Zoila Salguero and Ms. Reina Garcia from Guatemala City. The community members were involved with this program. During the 2 week mission, 70% of the uniforms were done. At the end of 2014 all the uniforms were distributed by Roy and Gerry Baker from Burlington Ontario who traveled to

Guatemala to oversee CCAMRE's programs. The sewing group with members of the community worked tirelessly to ensure that all elementary school children in Volcancito received a uniform.

Cecilia Bardsley, Sewing Program Director.
cecilia_bardsley@hotmail.com

Fund Raising Report

CCAMRE's fundraising initiatives would not be a success without the hard work and commitment of 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 dedication and hard work throughout the years.



2014 Annual Fundraising Gala

Plans to change our usual venue and format for our annual fundraising gala for 2014 began in early 2013. Over the past eight years CCAMRE had been changing and improving the event – the only change not made and was of most importance and essential to benefiting our fundraising goals was the admission cost. In 2013 we made a complete change of venue and format but kept the admission cost the same for the fundraising gala in preparation for the transition in 2014.

The Gala Committee unanimously agreed to an increase in the cost of the ticket from \$75 to \$125/person fully expecting less number of guests. We decided to hold the event at a superior location with improved dining and overall set up, hired an auction company to augment our items and facilitate a more efficient auction cash out. We hired a new band, added CCAMRE outreach and information tables, set up a complementary photo booth and provided a complementary cocktail. Our goal was to make the overall experience more fun, more memorable and more profitable.

We succeeded- the 2014 Gala “To Wish Upon a Star” was held at the beautiful Lambton Golf and Country Club, to the music of Cassava Latin Band. Our guests were very impressed and our fundraising objective proved to be the best we have had to date. Even with less people, the guests attending were open and generous acknowledging this was a fundraising event for a very worthwhile cause.

This was also the second year we had the benefit of donations and ticket purchases being transacted online with the use of PayPal.

The Committee worked collaboratively and diligently for months prior in preparation. An unexpected highlight during the evening was when a guest made a challenge to the other guests. If three people sponsored a child he and his wife who had two child sponsors at the time would sponsor another child. The response was overwhelming for both Child Sponsorships and Educational Scholarships. This was a truly wonderful turn of events for numerous children and their families in Guatemala.

Yes I believe that sometimes our wishes can come true when we decide “To Wish Upon a Star”.

Cecilia Bardsley, Gala Co-ordinator.
cecilia_bardsley@hotmail.com



2014 Run-Walkathon Event

On Saturday September 13, 2014, Canadian Central American Relief Effort held its annual "The Children of Merendon Mountains Run/Walkathon" at Erindale Park in Mississauga, along the scenic Credit River. The aim of 2014's Run/Walkathon was to raise funds to build two classrooms in the village of Volcancito in Guatemala, to replace an open-air area the children use as a classroom.

Though the weather did not cooperate with us on the day of our run/walkathon, support was still strong. Thank you to all our faithful friends who braved the rain that day, to those who collected pledges and to our wonderful volunteers. And a heartfelt thank you to the loyal corporate individuals who have continued to sponsor our event. With all of your help and support,

CCAMRE was able to break ground and begin to build these two classrooms.

Soon, the children in the village of Volcancito will have two new safe classrooms, with proper walls and a ceiling.

Toni Primavera, Run/Walkathon Co-ordinator, toni.primavera@yahoo.com



Our Appreciation

A heartfelt gratitude from CCAMRE's Board of Directors

To our members, sponsors, and supporters

In Canada:

- Dr. Diamond and Mr. Shiras Rattansi of Sherwood Photocopy, who made a donation toward CCAMRE printing material.
- The Rotary Club Mississauga Airport for their continued support to our cause, as well as partnering with us on our Run/Walkathon in 2013. Funds generated from this event were used to build 2 classrooms in Timushan
- To SHARE Agriculture Foundation for their support of 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/Walkathon.
- 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
- To the Guatemalan Embassy in Ottawa, Canada
- Ms Huda Abbas Executive Director of MIAG Center for Diverse Women and Families
- Health Partners International of Canada
- To Father Ted Slaman and Blessed Sacrament Parish of Hamilton, for their continued support to our cause.
- To Appleby United Church in Burlington, for their support throughout the years.
- To Steve Doucette, for donating his time, in reviewing our Financials and reporting to the Government



Special gratitude to the companies who sponsored CCAMRE's calendar and our Walkathon

- ROUTES Transport International INC.
- David M. Dunlap, MASTERS G.F.THOMPSON CO. LTD
- Blessed Sacrament Parish of Hamilton
- Grover Dental Group, Hamilton
- ASSANTE Wealth Management
- Gina Bet of WESTEND TRAVEL
- RZCD Law Firm, Geoff Cauchi L.L.B
- BGS, Michael Scauzillo, LLP
- Oakville, Sewing Center, Linda Peel-Devitt
- Yasmin Virani, Mortgage Agent of Dominion Leading Centers.
- Olga Grant, Sales Representative of Royal LePage
- John Stratigeas, Strate's Restaurant
- Paul Thomas, Clearwater Systems
- Lakeside, Be Smart
- Celia Schneider, Dominion Leadings Centres

In Guatemala:

- Mr. Santos Vasquez, CCAMRE's Co-ordinator in the mountains, La Unión, Zacapa
- Elida Arroyo Galdamez, CCAMRE Co-ordinator in La Unión, Zacapa
- Victoriano Suchite, CCAMRE Co-ordinator in Volcancito
- Elisa Suchite, Coordinator of the Children Breakfast Program in Volcancito
- Ms. Marianela Cordon Salguero, Mayor of La Unión, Zacapa, Guatemala.
- Dra. Yohana Ayala, Directors of the Community Health Center of La Unión, Zacapa
- Dr. Fernando Ancheta, Dean of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, for his support to our Dental Program since 2006.
- Dr. Jaime A Guerra Castaneda, Director of the 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
- Dra. Ivette Amarilis Gálvez
- Ms. Zoila Salguero helped with sewing program, since 2000.
- Ms. Reina Garcia, for her support to the Sewing Program in Volcancito
- Ms. Ada Sandoval, for supporting our mission and our effort.