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Canadian Central American Relief Effort

2016 Annual General Meeting 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 and Scholarship Director
Marylin Hallgren	Treasurer
Roy Baker	Economic Development
Fanny Garcia	Sponsor A Child Programme Support and Translator
Narendra C Patel	Finance Support & Membership Director
Mark Will	Media and Outreach and Scholarship Support

Co-ordinators

Toni Primavera	Walkathon/Runathon Event
Eva Carlin	Scholarship Program
Ruslana Vorotyntseva	Sponsor a Child Program
Carlos Sanchez	Translator



Canadian Central American Relief Effort

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

IROQUOIS RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1051 Glenashton Dr.

Oakville, Ont.

June 24th, 2017

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of 2016 AGM
4. President's Report
5. Presentation of 2016 Financial Statements
6. Accountant's Report
7. CCAMRE's work in Guatemala
8. Mission to Guatemala



2016 Annual Meeting

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

Date : 18 June 2017

Attendees: Mark Will, Hilda Rossi, Marylin Hallgren, Eva Carlin, Ricardo Rossi, Roy Baker, Cecilia Bardsley

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Roy Baker. All welcomed.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to alter the agenda by omitting item #7 as presented made by Hilda Rossi and seconded by Marylin Hallgren.
3. **Approval of the 2016 AGM Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the 2016 AGM made by Marylin Hallgren and seconded by Eva Carlin.
4. **President's Report:** Letter from CAMRE president Hilda Rossi in AGM booklet. In speaking Hilda talked about the importance of Board members attending our AGM. She thanked all members of the board and CCAMRE volunteers who work willingly on various matters related to the charity.
Hilda mentioned all the work that is being done pertaining to the container which will be shipped in July.
Hilda indicated that Elida, CCAMRE's representative in Guatemala sent Financial reports on all projects being carried on in Guatemala. She also sent her appreciation to all Board Members for incurring extra work and time for the people of Guatemala.
5. **Project Reports:** Reports for the the following are in the AGM booklet and filed with these minutes* Dental Program, Scholarship Program, Sponsor A Child Program, Breakfast Program, Seniors Program, Stoves Program, Fund Raising Report and Gala Report.
Roy Baker who is now operating with the Scholarship Program claimed that his ground work in Guatemala with the students receiving scholarships was most rewarding. He was very impressed with the students receiving scholarships and more impressed with .the girls who he feels will have a bigger influence on their future families.
6. **Presentation of Financial Statements:** Presented by Marylin Hallgren. Copies of the financial statements were made available to all attendees. General enquires and explanations were voiced. Marylin mentioned that Steve Doucette reviewed our accounts and statements and completes the report to the government though CCMARE submits them to the CRA.
Roy Baker made a motion to accept the financial report as received, seconded by Hilda Rossi.
7. **Accountants Report:** Item deleted from agenda.
8. **Powerpoint Presentation:** Presented by Mark Will.



Following presentation Hilda presented Mark Will to the members of the board to be considered for a position as a CCAMRE board member. Mark has worked closely on various projects, written and media presentations as well as working with the mission in Guatemala. Hilda Rossi nominated Mark Will and seconded by Marylin Hallgren. The Board accepted this nomination unanimously.

9. **Adjournment:** Motion made by Eva Carlin to Adjourn the 2016 AGM. Seconded by Roy Baker.



CCAMRE Letter from the President and Founder

CCAMRE has attained much success as a recognized charitable organization. As the President and founder of CCAMRE my dedication and enthusiasm has grown through the strength and support of the many exceptional people involved with this organization. I am comfortable in saying that despite many setbacks CCAMRE has been reaching its goals and that has been made possible by the hard work and dedication of the Board Directors; Marilyn Hallgren, Treasurer, Cecilia Bardsley, Secretary and Scholarship Director, Mark Will, Media and Outreach and Scholarship Support, Roy Baker, Economic Development, Fanny Garcia,



Sponsor a Child Program Support and Translator, Narendra Patel, Finance Support and Membership Director. These Board members are the backbone of the organization, they have contributed tremendously to the growth of CCAMRE and its success. CCAMRE's members and volunteers also played an important part in our growth and accomplishment. Our sincerest appreciation goes to our Fundraising Team, without their support we would not have the funding to maintain our ongoing projects and programs in

Guatemala. Special recognition is also due to the Guatemalan volunteers as they were part of the success of this year mission and to the Canadian mission members for their hard work and devotion and their continued support of our cause.

I have faith that with all this support, CCAMRE will continue to grow and its work will also grow and be recognized by many throughout the globe. I continue to look forward with excitement to the coming 2017 year in which we will expand the boundaries of our work with the people of Guatemala, especially the Mayan Chorti of the Merendon Mountains.

Our 2016 mission was an outstanding accomplishment, with the delivery of much needed medical and dental services, visits to the homes and interviews of the sponsored children and their parents. The mission included visiting and interviewing the scholarship recipients, their parents and teachers, evaluating the Senior's Program, the Stove Program and visiting the water source in Volcancito.

Another wonderful achievement occurred in July 2016 when CCAMRE sent a container filled with medical and dental equipment and items many of these items are to support our ongoing programs in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala. The medical equipment was donated by



the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and the dental equipment and items were donated by the Dr. Grover Dentistry Professional Corporation. This was a hugely challenging undertaking, as the Guatemalan government placed so many new restrictions on the entrance of the container into the country. The University of San Carlos of Guatemala was in charge of the container protocols and the container finally arrived in September. In October Cecilia Bardsley, Sandra Holloway and I travelled to Guatemala to oversee the distribution of the humanitarian aid. The focus of this mission was on ensuring the proper delivery of the container items to their destination. The items were delivered to the General Hospital of Zacapa, The Health Clinic of La Union and the Dental Clinic "Dr. Russell Grover" in La Union.

The positive effects from our efforts to promote self-sufficient communities can only continue and flourish with adequate monitoring and financing. As an organization, we need to continue to recruit new members (Canadian and Guatemalan), facilitate team building within our organization, develop new and stronger partnerships with notable service organizations and re-establish our commitment and innovation to insuring that CCARE meets the commitment of financial viability for the relief efforts.

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 that our undertaking is attainable and achievable. I believe it will allow us to create new and exciting opportunities for us as an organization and for the communities of Mayan Chorti living in the Merendon Mountain and the rest of Guatemala. I can say for sure that the 2016 missions were very successful for CCAMRE, with valuable relationships and healthy futures being cultivated and nurtured, all in the effort of bringing help to those in dire need.

I thank you for your dedication and support to making 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 goal.

Kindest regards,

Hilda Rossi
CCAMRE
President and Founder
www.canadiancamre.org



The Life and Work of CCAMRE

MISSION 2016 REPORT

Mission Members' Experiences

By Hilda Rossi: On March 23rd. I left for Guatemala to prepare for the arrival of CCAMRE humanitarian mission members. Fifteen volunteers left the comfort of their home to start the long and tiring journey on a mission to help others. We

2016 Mission Team



sincerely appreciate the support they gave to our effort. The only time the communities in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala see a Physician or Dentist is when CCAMRE arrives. We could see the happiness in the natives faces on our arrival. The volunteers on this humanitarian mission worked tirelessly for two weeks, enduring the heat, dust and much physical and mental difficulty. We visited 5 villages and attended to more than 1000 patients; Dentists Dr. Russell Grover and Dr. David

Silverstrom from the USA, and Medical Doctor, Dr. Yohana Ayala from La Union, Guatemala, all did some truly remarkable work. The lineup of patients was overwhelming.

One of our aims was to evaluate the ongoing projects and programs that we had previously initiated in the villages; The Sponsor a Child Program, Stove Program, Scholarship Program, Breakfast Program, and the Senior Program; I thoroughly enjoyed evaluating the Seniors Program; the seniors are always enthusiastic to share their life and happy that someone will spend time to listening to them. The highlight of this year's mission was the inauguration of the 2 room addition to the school in Volcancito.

We are appreciative of the Guatemalan people; especially the volunteers, the Government institutions, the Ministry of Health, and the Guatemalan Embassy in Ottawa for facilitating our work and for the problem free entrance of the medicine into Guatemala, and especially for protecting our wellbeing.

Dental Mission

By Mary Jane Pedro: I have been in the dental field for over 20 years, I never thought of doing mission work before. Working with Grover Dental Group opened up my eyes and gave me that opportunity to do something for others in Guatemala. This is my second dental mission and I hope to be a part of many more. CCAMRE and many volunteers are doing amazing things for the people in the Merendon Mountains. So much is needed on a continuing basis. I have met so many wonderful people with big hearts



Dr. Grover and Mary-Jane



Scholarship Program

By Roy Baker: This year we interviewed 29 student applicants for the scholarship programme.



CCAMRE's Scholarship Program recipients

There are 12 students in Pena Blanca, 6 in Timushan and 11 in Volcancito. The students came to the interview dressed as though they were applying for a job. Their clothes were, for the boys smart and clean with their hair combed and the girls wore clean dresses or skirts and tops, with hair well brushed. This gave me an indication of how much importance they give to their CCAMRE scholarships. Currently, in order to get to school, students have to walk school along dusty, dirt roads for more than 5 kilometers, taking more than an hour each way. I was very impressed with all of the young recipients in the scholarship

programme; they seem to realise that the best way to escape from poverty is through education.

rbaker24@cogeco.ca

Sponsor a Child & Breakfast Programs

By Lisa Bellis: My experience as a first time volunteer with CCAMRE was amazing. I spent the 2nd week with a small team focusing on the Sponsor A Child program and general help with the villages of Volcancito and Peña Blanca. We interviewed the children and their parents, visited their homes and tried to integrate into their daily life as much as we could in one week. This was an eye-opening, very emotional yet very rewarding week. I've returned to Canada with a renewed love and appreciation for what I have here.



Stoves Program

By Roy Baker: The stove project is progressing. To date we have installed 51 new stoves. 42 of them have been donated by S.H.A.R.E. (Sending Help and Resources Everywhere). The health of the villagers continues to improve with the smoke free homes. We have to continue to monitor and educate the villagers on the correct and efficient use of them. CCAMRE owes a big thank you to SHARE for their continued support of this programme. We are very fortunate that SHARE has donated more funding, and as a result we will be building more stoves in 2016.





Seniors Program



During the April 2016 mission I thoroughly enjoyed evaluating the Seniors Program at the village of Volcancito because the seniors are always so enthusiastic to share their life experiences and happy to have someone take the time to listen to them. This program is important for CCAMRE because at first we all concentrated on the children and sometimes we tended to forget about the seniors. This program has been possible because a caring lady from Markham, Ont. She has

supported this program since its commencement.

CCAMRE is now making sure that the seniors have a comfortable life in their own surroundings. There are 12 seniors in the program, and every 4 months we provide them with a basic basket of food, hygienic items, and clothing. The seniors enjoy breakfast every day after the 150 children have finished theirs. This year I also made sure they were all seen by a Doctor and

Container of Donations to Guatemala

A full sized shipping container full of donations was sent to Guatemala in July. A special thank you to the old Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital for donating a variety of hospital equipment including electric hospital beds, IV poles, wheelchairs and stretchers for the container. Another thank you goes to the Grover Dental Group for countless dental equipment donations such as dental chairs and tooth brushes / toothpaste. As well, we would like to thank all of the people who made personal donations like children's clothing and educational materials.

Together, our team of volunteers and supporters helped organize all of the donations in advance and helped to load the container once all of the donations were collected. This container project was a huge undertaking and we were able to pull it off successfully! The children and families of the Merendon Mountains will benefit greatly from these donations.

Fund Raising Report

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



2016 Annual Fundraising Gala

Our 16th annual fundraising gala, "A Grand Latin Evening" was held on March 5, 2016 at the beautiful Lambton Golf and Country Club.

We featured jazz singer Eliza Pope playing the piano and singing while our guests socialized and viewed the numerous auction items and CCAMRE information tables. CCAMRE held an incentive draw to encourage guests to sign up for either a child sponsorship or an educational scholarship. We obtained nine new sponsors!

Colourful piñatas were hung throughout the room. We solicited the assistance of Stillian Kostov to act as our MC. Toni Primavera acted as the Grand Game Master. Overall our fundraising efforts were very successful with the help of our numerous donors and guests.

We would like to extend a thank you and our sincere appreciation of the genuine continued support of all our 'Friends of CCAMRE' cecilia_bardsley@hotmail.com

2016 Run/Walkathon Event

On Saturday September 24, 2016 Canadian Central American Relief Effort held its annual 5/10 Km Run/Walkathon at Erindale Park in Mississauga, close to the Credit River where the salmon run was in progress. The great weather, the participation of many of CCAMRE's friends and supporters, the generosity of our corporate sponsors and the work of our organization's volunteers resulted in a successful event. This year we did not hire the services of VRPro and proved we can facilitate this event on our own. The funds raised from this year's run/walkathon will go to CCAMRE's breakfast program in Volcancito where a 150 school children are fed a daily and nutritional breakfast. A crowning success. toni.primavera@yahoo.com



Our Appreciation

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

A Special recognition to all our volunteers who have donated endless hours to CCAMRE fundraising events and outreach

In Canada:

- Dr. Russell Grover from Grover Dental Group of Hamilton
- Dr. Diamond and Mr. Shiras Rattansi of Sherwood Digital Copy and Print
- The Rotary Club Mississauga Airport
- To SHARE Agriculture Foundation for their support to our new Stove Project.
- Ms. Mabel Lim, for her generous contribution to the Senior Project in Volcancito
- To the Guatemalan Embassy in Ottawa, Canada
- Health Partners International of Canada
- To Father Ted Slaman of Blessed Sacrament Parish of Hamilton.
- To Appleby United Church in Burlington.
- The Canadian media for their help in sharing our work and events with the community.

Special gratitude to the companies who sponsored CCAMRE's calendar and fundraising events

- ROUTES Transport International INC.
- Sherwood Digital Copy and Print
- 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
- CIRRIUS, Yasmin Virani, Mortgage Agent
- HELENE C. BURROWES, Flowers and Balloon Designs



Special recognition to Members of CCAMRE for their contribution to our fundraising events.

- Toni Primavera-McCluskey, for her leadership of the CCAMRE's Run/Walkathons
- Cecilia Bardsley, for her leadership of the CCAMRE Galas

In Guatemala:

- Santos Vasquez, CCAMRE's Co-ordinator of the projects and programs in the mountains, La Unión, Zacapa, Guatemala
- 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
- Mr. Osvaldo Portillo, Mayor of La Union, Zacapa, Guatemala.
- Dra. Yohana Ayala, Directors of the Health Center of La Union, Zacapa
- Dr. Fernando Ancheta, Dean of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, for his support to CCAMRE's 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 Program
- Dra. Ivette Amarilis Gálvez
- Ms. Zoila Salguero helped with sewing program, since 2000.
- Ms. Reina Garcia, for her support to the Sewing Program.
- Ms. Ada Sandoval, for supporting our mission and our effort.

Donating to CCAMRE is easy

Simply go to the www.canadahelps.org website and enter our full name: Canadian Central American Relief Effort and follow the prompts. Donations are tax deductible

www.canadiancamre.org