



CCAMRE Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2017

www.canadiancamre.org

Our Mission

CCAMRE focuses on initiatives to improve the self-sufficiency of impoverished communities in the Merendon Mountains in Guatemala.

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2017 Summary:

- 44 children sponsored
- 35 scholarships awarded
- 140 school children receiving daily breakfast
- 12 seniors receiving assistance

Contact Information

1101 Grandeur Cr.
Oakville, On L6H 4B4
info@canadiancamre.org
hrossi@canadiancamre.org
Tel. (905) 849 8350

Charitable Number:
87483-7602-RR0001

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter! Be sure to check out our new Youtube channel: search 'Canadian Central American Relief Effort'.



Mission Member's Experiences

By Hilda Rossi: After 5 weeks of humanitarian work in the Merendon Mountains of La Union, Zacapa, Guatemala, I thank the Lord for the safe return of the mission members and myself to our homes and loved ones in Canada. We are very happy to say that this year we had a truly great and gratifying mission, the team of 23 volunteers (9 new ones) working hard and sharing their love, experiences and skills with the Mayan Chorti people.

As usual, new challenges arose, like transportation to the mountains, logistics, government regulations, dust and heat. However, all these difficulties didn't diminish the rewarding work done by all the mission members. The medical and dental teams lead by Dr. Russell Grover, Dr. Silverstrom and Dr. Hsieh who along with their dental and medical assistants, attended to more than a 1000 patients in one week. This was a truly great accomplishment as the communities are in desperate need of health and dental care. In addition, we evaluated the programs and projects of the Sponsor a Child Program and the Breakfast Program. We also evaluated the proposed construction of new toilets in the school in Volcancito since these elementary school children have not had toilets for the last 3 years. The Seniors Program, is another important program that we conducted as these wonderful people are often neglected.

I would like to thank Sandra Holloway who is a CCAMRE member and a member of the Rotary Club of St. Catherines and is instrumental in the possible involvement of the Rotary Club of Gualan in a Water Project for Volcancito. This is a very important project as we all know that clean water is vital for survival and a good health. This project has been in my heart for many, many years. Let's pray that it will materialize.

A huge thank you, also, to all the Mission Members from the USA, Yukon and Ontario for being part of this humanitarian mission to Guatemala 2017. These people have donated their time, commitment, love and resources. Below is the 2017 mission team.



Dental Mission

By Heidi Grover:

This year the 2017 dental program brought many wonderful rewards. We had the honour of visiting 2 new villages, Tasharte and Capocallito. We were greeted with the warm smiles from these two new communities. They were already lined up waiting for us to take care of their dental needs, in other words, toothaches! Our make shift dental operatories were set up and the dental team went to work. We also worked in Volcancito and provided dentistry in the town of La Union. During four days of clinical dentistry the Doctors extracted over 300 teeth and our hygienist cleaned 98 mouths. A tremendous amount of dental care

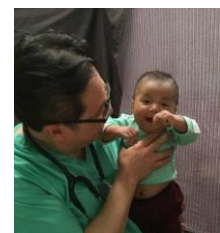


was given by the clinical team with the help of the support team. It was a comforting feeling knowing that so many people were going to be able to go home and sleep peacefully as they had no more toothaches.

We are very proud of the work that we have done over the past 12 years in Guatemala. The dental program has continually grown. We have had amazing Doctors, Hygienist, Assistants and support team throughout the years. For that, we are so thankful.

Medical Program

By Sandra Holloway: A robust team of medical professionals participated in this year's mission to Guatemala. Dr Ayala from Guatemala was aided by Dr. Ken Hsieh from the U.S. Kim Klein, and Jessica Wherley, nurses from U.S. and Canada respectively, and three assistants. Together, 121 people were seen at four locations. The average age was 21.4 years old, the median age 16. There were 75 females, 46 males. The most common complaints included generalized pain, worms, upper respiratory infections, gastritis, anemia, fever and cough.





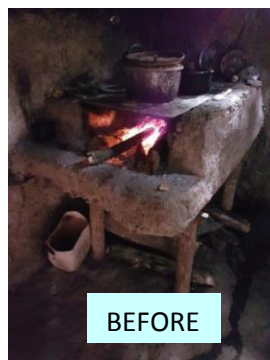
Sponsor A Child Program

By Jennifer Woodworth: We visited most of the sponsored children at their homes in Upper and Lower Volcancito. They were interviewed and I had them make a bookmark as a gift for their sponsors. We saw most of the homes and their living conditions. Parents were asked what they needed to make their lives better. We put together a list and hopefully we are able to help these families out. Sandra interviewed the children of Pena Blanca but no home visits were done. The breakfast program has been a huge success because the children learn much better with a nutritious breakfast every morning.



2017 Annual Walkathon

CCAMRE will be holding its annual walkathon on September 30th, 2017. Please save the date! More details to follow soon. All proceeds will go towards supporting our water project for the families and children in Volcancito.



BEFORE



AFTER

Stove Program

CCAMRE continues to install new stoves in the villages of Volcancito and Pena Blanca. Nine were installed in Pena Blanca in 2016. The new stoves improve the health of the villagers by eliminating eye and lung damaging smoke in their homes caused by smoke from their old stoves.

Also, the new stoves are more environmentally friendly because they use one third of the wood fuel used in the old stoves.

Unfortunately, the cost of these new stoves has increased from \$250.00 to \$335.00 per stove, due to the fall in the Canadian dollar.

Needless to say we continue to look for donations to this project.

roy@canadiancamre.org

High School Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Program has been spread between Timushan, Peña Blanca and Volcancito. We have been focusing on Volcancito as it is the poorest of the villages that we work in. Of the 35 scholarships that we have, 17 of the students are from Volcancito. It is incredibly fulfilling talking to the families that are receiving scholarship support as well as the teachers at the high school, because they know that these kids would not get this chance otherwise. Through education they will have an opportunity for a better future.

ccamre.educationprogram.mark@outlook.com
ccamre.educationprogram.cecilia@outlook.com



Seniors Program

By Hilda Rossi: This year we had a Medical and Dental program at Volcancito for the seniors and they were all seen by the dentist and the doctor. As always they shared their medical problems, especially their constant pain. Ana Paredes was in charge of the evaluation of the seniors program and she interviewed them to ascertain their most urgent needs. We gave the seniors a supply of vitamins that would last them at least 6 months and they all receive a nutritious food hamper every 4 months and a breakfast 5 days a week. We have 13 seniors in the program.



2017 Annual Fundraising Gala

By Cecilia Bardsley: CCAMRE was pleased by the large turn out of guests to our event held at Lambton Golf and Country Club on March 4, 2017.

This was our third gala held at Lambton. CCAMRE is very appreciative of the professional standard to all details, the extra care and consideration to all matters pertaining to the organizing and the evening of our gala by the staff at Lambton G&CC.

This fundraising gala could not be successful without the dedication and hard work of all the volunteers with CCAMRE. So many individuals carried out their duties, and participated with the organizing, procuring guests and helping the evening of. This is a team effort and one that not only brings the CCAMRE members together but is a great source of outreach for the charity.

ccamre.educationprogram.cecilia@outlook.com



The volunteers who organized the gala

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.