



CCAMRE Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2016

www.canadiancamre.org

Our Mission

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

Board of Directors

Hilda Rossi: **President/Founder**

Marylin Hallgren: **Treasurer**

Cecilia Bardsley: **Secretary**

Roy Baker: **Stoves Program**

Narendra Patel: **Membership & Finance Support**

Fanny Garcia: **Translator / SACP support**

Mark Will: **Communication & Scholarship Support**

Program Coordinators

Eva Carlin: **Scholarship Program**

Ruslana Vorotyntseva: **Sponsor A Child Program (SACP)**

Toni Primavera: **Fundraising Coordinator**

2016 Summary

-52 children sponsored

-36 scholarships awarded

-150 school children receiving daily breakfast

-12 seniors receiving assistance

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Container of Donations

Beginning with the decommissioning of the old Oakville Hospital, it was a project in the making since July of 2016. Many thanks go to the McKenna Logistics Centres in Mississauga for storing the thousands of pounds of donations which were collected and put into a sea shipping container. That container arrived in Guatemala in the last week of September, met by Cecilia Bardsley, Sandra Holloway and Hilda Rossi (CCAMRE members) who all travelled in October to oversee the distribution of the humanitarian aid.

The focus of this mission was on ensuring the proper delivery of the medical and dental contents of the container, including other items essential to the success of ongoing programs in the Merendon Mountains. All of these supplies were graciously donated by the partners of CCAMRE. Dr. Fernando Ancheta, a Dean of the University of San Carlos and also in charge of the Dental Program, was the first individual met by the group. Following a tour of the facilities we got together with their University Board of Directors who explained the process of moving the equipment and supplies to Zacapa Hospital and the clinic in La Union.

Zacapa Hospital was the next location visited where CCAMRE met with Dr. Jaime Guerra, the hospital Director. An arrangement was made to have the supplies and equipment delivered to the hospital and he was very appreciative of our efforts as well as extremely excited to receive the donated materials. Every little bit counts towards making a big difference where it matters the most.

The last delivery was to the health clinic in La Union. Despite the fact that it was raining heavily that day they were still very happy to receive the donations. All of the transportation was donated by the municipalities of La Union and Zacapa.

Ultimately it was a very successful mission for CCAMRE, with valuable relationships and healthy futures being cultivated and nurtured, all in the effort to bring help to those in dire need.



2016 Run/Walkathon:

By Toni Primavera: I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to all of you for participating in Canadian Central American Relief Effort's "The Children of Merendon Mountains Run/Walkathon" on Saturday September 24 at Erindale Park in Mississauga. The perfect weather, the good turnout, the support of corporate sponsors and the hardworking volunteers, all made for a successful run/walkathon. The funds raised from this event will go to CCAMRE's breakfast program which provides daily breakfast to 150 school children in the village of Volcancito, Guatemala. CCAMRE pays for the food and the children's mothers cook and serve the meal.

Thank you for your belief, trust and support in our humanitarian work. These children will continue to receive at least one nutritional meal per day for the next year. Again, thank you to all. I believe it is truly amazing what a few people, who band and work together, can accomplish.

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Upcoming 2017 Dental Mission

By Heidi Grover: The 2017 Guatemala Dental mission should prove to be very exciting! This year we have dentists, hygienists and assistants coming from either side of Canada and a team from the United States. Dr. Grover and his team will be joining CCAMRE again for their 12th Dental mission in the Merendon Mountains. Dr. Silverstrom, his wife Shannon and his team will once again be travelling from New Jersey to Guatemala, to participate in their second CCAMRE mission. This year we have a team flying in from the Dandelion Dental Clinic from Yukon for their first Dental mission. Our team keeps on growing and it gets more exciting every year!

We continue to work with the children and their families following through with our vision that no one should experience a toothache. There is still much work to be done but with the partnership with the University of San Carlos Dental School we are well on our way and look forward to sharing our future success with CCAMRE members.





Sponsor a Child & Breakfast Programs

By Cecilia Bardsley: Once sponsors have chosen or are given a child, the world changes for a child and their family.

The families receive food bundles three times during the year. The bundles include staples such as sugar, salt, rice, vitamins, oil and an assortment of fresh fruit and vegetables, canned meats, teas, beans and other essentials. Every family looks forward to these food bundles and appreciates the impact it has on their family's health and well being. The sponsored child also receives school supplies and clothes for school.

The children are happy and excited to be sponsored. They love the idea that someone from far away knows and cares about them.

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2017 CCAMRE Gala

Join us for CCAMRE's 17th Annual Dinner and Dance Event! This year our grand gala night will take place on March 4th, 2017 at the Lambton Golf & Country Club!! You can purchase your ticket online by using PayPal; it is easy and convenient. To purchase tickets, please visit our website at

<http://www.canadiancamre.org/events.html>

Donating to CCAMRE is easy!

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

Stoves Program

By Roy Baker: As in past years SHARE has donated \$2,500.00 to CCAMRE's 2016 New Stove Programme to cover the cost of building 8 new stoves.

After reviewing the photographs provided by Elida Galdamez, our co-ordinator in Guatemala, we picked 7 of the most needy families in the village of Pena Blanca to receive the stoves and the 8th stove is for the new school in Volcancito that was built and paid for by CCAMRE in 2016.

The old stoves emitted a lot of smoke inside the homes. The parents and children constantly breathed in these fumes every day, which caused eye and lung damage. The new stoves provide the villagers with a smoke free home which improves their health over the long term. Also, the new stoves are environmentally friendly as they use one third of the wood to heat the home.

Scholarship Program

By Eva Carlin: Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, each year CCAMRE provides scholarships for approximately 36 students to continue their education beyond elementary school. Since we started the Scholarship Program we have had 10 students graduated as teachers, nurses, and accountants. They are working and providing for themselves and their family.



Seniors Program



By Hilda Rossi: At the present time CCAMRE is supporting 12 elders through our Seniors Program. We provide a nutritional breakfast each day as well as a basket every three months. These baskets contain such items as food as well as hygiene and personal items.

This program has been possible because of a devoted sponsor who has supported this program since its initiation. This program is truly wonderful, as it lessens the hard life that the seniors are enduring in the Merendon Mountains. info@canadiancamre.org

October 2016 Mission

By Sandra Holloway: Two weeks full of opportunities to further our work in the Merendon mountains and help the Maya Chorti. We helped the Sponsored Children make Christmas cards for their Sponsors.

We met with Dr. Guerra at the hospital in Zacapa where we discussed the health care system and the prevalence of certain health complaints and the reasons for these illnesses. He will provide posters for teaching about handwashing etc.

I believe this trip provided many opportunities to build relationships and further CCAMRE'S mission. I appreciated the opportunity to participate and learned a great deal.

