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**Canadian Central American Relief Effort
2021 Annual General Meeting
2020 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
Sandra Holloway	Director
Narendra C Patel	Director
Laura Ross-Diorio	Director
Eva Carlin	Director

Co-ordinators Volunteers

Janet Bot	Sponsor A Child Coordinator
Ruslana Vorotyntseva	Dropbox support
Fanny Garcia	Translators
Lucy Zuchett	Translators



Canadian Central American Relief Effort- CCAMRE

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Saturday
12 June 2021
10:00AM

AGENDA

Chair: Sandra Holloway

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Chair |
| 2. Acceptance of Agenda | Chair |
| 3. Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes | Chair |
| 4. President's Report | Hilda Rossi |
| 5. Programs, Projects Reports | |
| • Mission 2020 | Hilda Rossi |
| • Water | John Bot / Eddie Lovisotto |
| • Seniors | Hilda Rossi |
| • SACP | Janet Bot |
| • Scholarship | Cecilia Bardsley |
| • Health | Sandra Holloway |
| • Dental | Jennifer Woodworth |
| • Fundraising / Covid19 | Eva Carlin |
| • Agriculture | Eva Carlin |
| 6. Motion for Acceptance of 2020 Reports | Chair |
| 7. Presentation of 2020 Financial Statements | Marilyn Hallgren |
| 8. Other Business | Chair |
| 9. Adjournment | |



2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Location: On line Zoom Meeting

Date: June 27, 2020

Attendance: Cecilia Bardsley, Sandra Holloway, Hilda Rossi, Janet Bot, John Bot, Marylin Hallgren, Narendra Patel, Laura Rossi Diorio, Toni Primavera, Adrian Rossi, Nancy Chan, Mark Will, Jason Rossi, Sandra Juarez, Eva Carlin, Roy Baker and Ana Paredes. Sandra Holloway is acting chair of this meeting.

1. **Call to Order:** Sandra Holloway called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Marylin Hallgren made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by John Bot.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Cecilia Bardsley made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by John Bot.
4. **Presidents Report:** Hilda Rossi introduced herself as the President and Founder of CCAMRE; she then introduced Cecilia Bardsley; CCAMRE Secretary, Marylin Hallgren, Treasurer, along with other board members Sandra Holloway, Narendra Patel, Eva Carlin and Mark Will. Hilda welcomed all CCAMRE members and non members to our Annual General Meeting to discuss our progress in 2019. Hilda is inspired by the dedication, the hard work and support of the Board Members, volunteers and sponsors. She mentioned that the annual work mission is our main humanitarian effort, a valuable time to collaborate, interact and assess our programs and needs within the village communities, the local municipalities and our Guatemalan associates. Hilda proudly commented on the Inauguration of the Clean Water Facility in Volcancito Abajo; a major project in collaboration with the Rotary Club of St. Catharines, Rotary Club of Gualan, Municipality of La Union and CCAMRE. Over the many years of providing Dental and Medical Programs to villages where they never normally have care, Sponsor A Child Program, which provides food, school supplies for Junior kindergarten to Grade 6 aged children, School Breakfast Program in Volcancito. In education, Scholarship Support Program for students grade 7 and above she has witnessed changes, improvement, encouragement, determination, and strength of so many people within the villages where CCAMRE works. Hilda encouraged meeting attendees to read the reports and asked the Project Directors to speak of their project's activity in 2019.



5. Program Reports

Water Project: Sandra Holloway is a Rotarian Member from St. Catharines and one of the main coordinators of this project. She indicated that the need of clean water to Volcancito was a priority and over time she was instrumental in obtaining the assistive collaboration of the Gualan Rotarians. The water source for this village is on top of the mountain, plans for the water project were draw up by the municipality engineer outlining the placement of PVC tubes, spigots, cleaning and containment containers. The community organized a Water Committee to work with the community, Municipality and Rotarians. CCAMRE's next water Project is targeted for Volcancito Arriba as the funds are available though with Covid 19 restrictions this is on hold.

Seniors Project: Hilda Rossi mentioned that the seniors have a special place in her heart. Most of the efforts go to the younger members of the community and they are forgotten. The program has had a main supporter for years; a woman from Markham. There are 13 seniors receiving aid through relief baskets which include food, Vitamins and medications. Seniors are allowed to attend the Breakfast Program and are encouraged to visit the doctor and dentist when CCAMRE provides them. As CCAMRE is a small organization with limited funds and currently has 10 seniors on the waitlist.

SACP/ Sponsor A Child Program: Janet Bot began working with Hilda in the summer of 2019 and has now taken the SACP Directorship. She introduced herself to the sponsors in December when sending out cards and letters from the Guatemalan children. She indicated that there are 11 children from Peña Blanca, 30 from Volcancito and 150 using the Breakfast Program.

ESSP/ Education Scholarship Support Program: Cecilia Bardsley commented that in 2019 the ESSP has 3 students in weekend University which takes 6 years to complete. This is a common decision as most students must still work with their parents to assist the family. The students in Diversificado school level are experiencing financial difficulties as their scholarship does not cover all of their expenses and their parents are financially limited. Educational Contracts were drawn up for all students and their parents receiving financial aid. CCAMRE has added an extra person to work with the students needs in Guatemala. Cecilia is encouraged by the strong interest in better education from students and their parents which was not there 5 years ago.

Health: Sandra talked about the importance of the local doctor seeing the people in the mountain villages where they will see 50 patients in one day. Generally the doctor is attended by one nurse to assess the patients and assist the doctor. Medications this year were purchased in Guatemala with some challenges in true dosage and quality. In the past, they have been purchased in Canada.

Dentistry: The Dental Student is placed in the Municipality for 8 months in their final practice year through San Carlos University and collaboration of Dr. Grover Dental Clinic. No report was sent by the Dental group for 2019.



Stove Program: John Bot reported for the year 2019 when he and Brian Coutts went to assess the condition of the 60 or so existing stoves in Volcancito and Peña Blanca. The stoves were built from 2015 to 2018. The older stoves were in bad condition, some chimneys were removed and some fronts of some stoves were collapsing. People did not know how to use or care for the stoves. They have suggested a new type of stove designed by a Canadian, Jeff Doppenburg, currently living in Guatemala. Attempts will be made to contact him for further discussion of seeing a prototype and discussing the cost. The stoves needed are for warmth and cooking in the mountains, other stove designs were not appropriate for the constant use needed for the cool mountain temperatures.

Fundraising: Mark Will reported that the Denim and Diamond Casino Night at the Crowne Plaza was well received and generated much need funds for CCAMRE. The Lovisotto family assisted in a big way; along with numerous other CCAMRE members and for this we are very thankful. The live band, Silent Auction, food table and casino games entertained our guests to a very enjoyable evening.

Media: Eva Carlin is our computer person and she is currently working on our Website which was rebuilt three years ago. She is not familiar with the Wordpress program and is obtaining assistance on this.

6. **Motion of Acceptance:** Eva Carlin made a motion to accept the 2019 reports as presented, seconded by Marylin Hallgren.
7. **Presentation of 2019 Financial Statements:** Marylin Hallgren presented through Zoom sharing the 2019 financial report detailing Revenues and Expenditures. We showed a profit of \$21, 816.24. She went through each section explaining areas of discrepancies, concerns and bookkeeping requirements for the charity to show the path of the funds, which may have come from previous years held in trust accounts, or funds not yet paid out but allotted to certain areas. In the expenditures of \$112,695.00 direct costs from the charity was \$2767.11 which is 4.15%. The honorariums paid out to our Guatemalan workers were a total of \$8531.24. There is a constant changing value of the Canadian dollar to US dollars to Quetzals, the Guatemalan currency which creates some issues with the funds allotted; Marylin must purchase US dollars to transfer down to Guatemala for various payments and keeping track of the exchange rate at the time. Unfortunately, the availability of having timely financial reports from Guatemala is not ideal, which also creates financial record upset and delay. AGM attendees were able to ask questions of Marylin who happily answered. Marylin Hallgren made a motion to accept the 2019 Financial Statements as presented; seconded by Adrian Rossi and approved by all.
8. **Other Business:** Hilda Rossi presented the idea of a fundraising initiative for food baskets for 335 families in Volcancito and Peña Blanca. This information is being placed on the CCAMRE website. Due to heavy rains and the restrictions of Covid people from all villages in the Municipality of La Union are not allowed to leave their village which is causing great concern. Villagers only grow certain food and need



various other food, supplies and medicine. CCAMRE has donated funds to the Municipality of La Union who has already donated food supplies to a number of villages. Hilda has suggested that CCAMRE, consider allotting some funds from the SACP not being used for the food bundles, normally given to the family of a sponsored child, be used in this initiative. The food baskets would cost around \$25-\$30 and CCAMRE is targeting this campaign at \$10,000.00 US. Sandra Holloway suggested a Go Fund Me Page and it was set up for CCAMRE. Marylin mentioned that we now have E-transfer ability. Email fliers are being drafted for distribution

9. **Adjournment:** Cecilia Bardsley made a motion to close the meeting at 12:00 and seconded by Sandra Holloway, all in favour. Minutes taken and reported by Cecilia Bardsley, Secretary

Message from the President and Founder

The Letter from the President, 12 June 2021

Uncertainty, unexpected challenges and changes in our way of life in 2020 from COVID-19 did not stop CCAMRE from its continued work in Guatemala. I am proud to say that our humanitarian work continues to thrive and achieve its goals.

2020 will be remembered as the year that Covid-19 changed life around the globe. People already living with hardship and poverty suffered the most. When it became apparent that the villagers in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala were suffering not only due to the pandemic, but also from the impact of two hurricanes that devastated their crops, dwellings and caused loss of life, CCAMRE assisted by organizing two food fundraising drives for the communities of Volcancito and Peña Blanca. Every family received much needed food supplies. CCAMRE's is planning to implement an Agriculture project in Peña Blanca.

CCAMRE's yearly mission to Guatemala was a huge success and occurred prior to the world going into COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown. I was extremely happy that the mission volunteers returned home on March 8th, just before the closing of borders around the world. This amazing mission included 18 volunteers from Canada and the USA along with 10 Guatemalan volunteers.

Board Director, Sandra Holloway, coordinated the Medical and Dental Program, with the support of Jennifer Woodworth, a hygienist from the Grover Dental Care Group. The dental program was truly extraordinary. CCAMRE hugely appreciates the generosity and support of Dr. Russell Grover. Volunteers Mary Jane Pedro and Heidi Grover were also members of the mission dental team. The group had the support of our Guatemalan dental professionals, Dr. Ivette Amarilis, Dr. Lourdes Alvarez, Dr. Javier Florian, Dr. Rogelio Garcia and EPS Maria Fernanda Ruiz. It was truly an extraordinary hard-working group. We delivered much needed dental aid to the Mayan Chorti indigenous communities in the Merendon Mountains in La Union, Zacapa, Guatemala. The Medical Program team plays an important role in every mission because this is the only time that the Mayan Chorti receive medical attention in the mountains. CCAMRE's

medical team included Sandra Holloway, Eva Carlin and Phyllis Agostino with the support of our Guatemalan medical professionals Dr. Yohana Ayala, Director of the Health Center and her Team, Dr. Astril Carbajal and Miriam Escobar. The mission volunteers also had the opportunity to visit the new Children Disability Clinic in La Union. It was encouraging to see the local community providing support for families struggling with caring for children with disabilities. The Mayan Chorti communities of the Merendon Mountains were overjoyed to have CCAMRE's mission medical aid and embraced our visit.

The following mission volunteers, Eddy, Michael, Celina and Matteo Lovisotto and John Bot worked on improving the Water Project in Volcancito Abajo. They worked on repairing the water collector tank in the mountains. Local villagers, Santos, Alfredo, also volunteered to help with this repair work along with Tomas Garcia a plumber from the municipality. In 2019, we inaugurated CCAMRE's Water Project and it was one of the best gifts given to the community of Volcancito Abajo.

The Education Scholarship Program volunteer, Gaby Baldizon from the USA, has been supporting this program and



(Eddy, Christine, John, and myself with children of Volcancito)

missions for 3 years. Gaby is the translator and helps Cecilia Bardsley, the Director of this program, to evaluate the program, interview the scholarship recipients, parents and teachers. This program is critical, as education is the only path to break the cycle of poverty. Now the Mayan Chorti youth have a hope for a better future with CCAMRE's high school and University scholarship programs. The Sponsor a Child Program mission volunteers, Janet Bot and Christina Lovisotto with the support of volunteer translator Blanca Aurora Baldizon from the

USA and Rayna Morales from Guatemala, worked tirelessly to evaluate the Sponsor a Child Program. They interviewed the sponsored children and parents in Volcancito and Peña Blanca and met with the teachers. Currently, we have 45 sponsored children and many new applications were accepted during the mission. In February the sponsored children received baskets filled with school supplies, hygiene items, and food. This year was different as the schools were closed due to Covid-19. We are hoping to resume very soon. The Senior Program that supports elderly people is very close to my heart as they are very vulnerable and need care. During this year's mission, I taught them some exercises and ensured that they had something to eat and drink. We also made sure that the mission dentists and doctors provided dental and medical aid to the seniors.



Thank you to the Board of Directors, volunteers, sponsors and supporters. These dedicated people who give selflessly of their time, commitment and talent, help us to make a difference in the lives of the humble people of the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala.

Sincerely,

Hilda Rossi

President and Founder

MISSION 2020 REPORT

The Life and work of CCAMRE. 2020 Humanitarian Mission to Guatemala Mission Members' Experiences



By Hilda Rossi: CCAMRE's Mission 2020 to Guatemala was an extraordinary journey. I and 17 other mission members left our comfortable lives in Canada and donated our funds, expertise and love to help the Mayan Chorti communities in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala. CCAMRE knows how stressful it can be for the mission members as they find themselves in strange surroundings without the comforts of home. We travel on dirt roads in pick-up trucks to get to the remote mountain villages. Once at the

villages we worked on many projects and programs. Also we delivered health and dental care to the villagers living in the mountains. It can be difficult to witness the reality of the daily lives of the people living in the remote villages. The kind words and actions from the mission members go a long way toward helping them. Members of the communities expressed their gratitude to all the mission members for their contribution to help improve life for the Mayan Chorti. The mission members worked on many programs and projects. We worked on Dental and Health Programs, High School and University Scholarship Programs, the Sponsor a Child Program (SACP), Seniors Program, and the Water Project. CCAMRE looks forward to continuing with its humanitarian work. Covid-19, however, has changed the world. We hope that it will not

stop us from continuing our humanitarian effort that brings much needed support to the Mayan Chorti communities in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala. I was so happy when the mission members left on March 8 just before the closure of borders and the airport in Guatemala City and that we are now all safe and sound with their loved- ones in Canada. I pray that through a unified commitment from all CCAMRE mission members we can continue to accomplish many great things together.

info@canadiancamre.org

CCAMRE's Water Project in Volcancito

By John Bot: Water for Volcancito Abajo is sourced from a small number of springs high on a hillside above the village. The springs converge at a central collection point and are then fed via pipe to the village. Testing has shown that some of the water was prone to contamination so the CCAMRE construction team – Eddie, Michael, Matteo, Celina and John worked with Alfredo, Santos, Victoriano and Manuel to tap only the potable springs. This was accomplished by extending the collection pipe to a pure water source. Hopefully this will ensure a steady supply of fresh, clean water to the village.

info@canadiancamre.org



Seniors Program



By Hilda Rossi: This year's mission was not different from other missions as the seniors are always in our mission work plan. I usually emphasize to the seniors before we arrive that they should make sure to attend the health care mission visit. The mission volunteers left in dire bad weather on Saturday, March 9th and on Sunday, March 10th, Elida and I went back to Volcancito to work on the SACP interviews and Senior Program meeting that were not completed during the mission. There are 13 elders in the Senior Program. Joaquin Zacarias, a

member of our program, passed away and his wife Santa Lopez Zacarias became part of the program. I interviewed the seniors and they shared how grateful they are that we continue this program and help them. They love sharing their stories and they appreciate that someone listens to them. They had oatmeal with sweet bread. I distributed Centrum vitamins and taught them how to open the bottle as they had difficulties. I made sure that they took one in front of me at the meeting. We had a very active meeting. We did exercises and I re-enforced how important it is to be active and explained to them that exercises will help keep their bones and muscles healthy. They shared that they endure so much body pain and we discussed how they can alleviate their aching muscles by massaging themselves. We gave them blankets to keep their body warm. Repeatedly, they shared their appreciation to CCAMRE.

info@canadiancamre.org

Sponsor A Child Program

By Janet Bot : This was the first time I participated in a CCAMRE mission and I now have a much better understanding of the needs of the Mayan Chorti people in the Merendon Mountains. In my role with the Sponsor a Child Program (SACP) it was a pleasure to meet the sponsored children as they are no longer just names on a list and photos on the internet. It was obvious that the need is great for the support provided by CCAMRE for these children and their families. In addition, I was able to meet the children that John and I are sponsoring through the SACP and ESSP. We





have sponsored children before with Plan International but it was quite amazing to actually meet and interact with the children. It made it so much more real.

I was part of the SACP team and worked with Christine Lovisotto, Blanca Aurora Baldizon and Rayna. We worked well together and supported each other throughout the mission. There are currently 40 sponsored children, 11 in Peña Blanca and 29 in Volcancito. On the mission we interviewed and photographed all the children who are part of the SACP. They prepared letters and drawings for their sponsors and upon our return from the mission the photos and letters were emailed to each sponsor along with an update on the child's progress. This process validates the SACP and allows us to ensure that the children are still attending school and are eligible for the program.

In addition to meeting with the sponsored children, we also took applications for possible sponsorship from 28 new children, 15 in Peña Blanca and 13 in Volcancito. The children and their parent(s) were interviewed and photos were taken. To be eligible to submit an application, a copy of their birth certificate was provided, and it was confirmed that no other children in the family were enrolled in the SACP. The applications and documents have now been provided to Elida Arroyo Galdamez. Elida will confirm that these children are all eligible for the program and we can then seek out sponsors for them. I very much enjoyed meeting Elida. As she is our Guatemalan contact for the SACP her role is critical to ensure that the program is operating as smoothly as possible. It was also interesting to see the schools in Peña Blanca and Volcancito and to meet the teachers. Life is very challenging for them. ccamre.sponsor.a.child@gmail.com

Educational Scholarship Support Program

By Cecilia Bardsley: The 2020 Humanitarian Mission was productive, thorough and enjoyable; our mission members from Canada, USA and Guatemala were a hardworking, focused and cohesive group.



This was the third year that Gabriela Baldizon, a Guatemalan now living in the USA and I have worked together. Gaby provides Spanish translation and is an assistant with the Education Scholarship Support Program. She has a delightful, cheery and sensitive personality. The ESSP has students in Volcancito, Peña Blanca and Timushan enrolled in Basico (12), Bachillerato/Diversificado (4) and university (4). This year we received more applications mostly for Basico, with a number of applicants from older students wanting to return to school. CCAMRE is in need of sponsors for the new applicants.

Every year we spend time with each student within the ESSP unless they are attending school in another area and unable to return. I change the interview questions annually and present a new event of activity for the students. Through the interview process, the activity and their letters to their sponsor we are privileged to see a different side of the students, observe their personal development, assess their progress and hopefully gain their trust. Gaby and I try to use this time with each student to encourage them to think, express, question, evaluate and enjoy their schooling experience. We do not take for granted that all children will want to continue with their schooling beyond grade six;

attending Basico is a big step for them and their families. Being that students within the ESSP are receiving a sponsorship, we encourage and stress the importance of them to work hard and to put forth their best effort.



This year I received a donation of 175 condoms from a Canadian doctor and Sandra Holloway received a donation; from a church group from St. Catherines; of kits of reusable/washable sanitary pads. ESSP organized separate Health and Sexual Education presentations for girls and boys at three Basico level schools. With great participation from schoolteachers, the



presentations went extremely well. We gave out all the kits to the girls however we ran short. Sandra has given supplies to make more of the kits to a Guatemalan CCAMRE volunteer and these will be delivered to the schools. The young men who felt the safety and benefit of protection for themselves or other family members was important; took condoms after the presentation. Our university and Diversificado students were also given information and instruction with condoms.

We held a presentation for students who will be graduating their final Basico level; given by Lorena Salguero one of our CCAMRE coordinators in Guatemala. She discussed the CCAMRE Education contract and the expectation for the students and their parents to make appropriate investigations, choices and cost requirements for their schooling in 2021 and to present this to CCAMRE by November of 2020 in order to present to their sponsors for approval. We had a meeting with Elida Galdamez the CCAMRE coordinator in charge of finances in Guatemala, evaluating the 2019 expenses and to setting a tentative budget for 2020. It is my hope to eventually raise the current average standard of education in all villages from illiteracy to the minimum average standard to grade six with hopefully many completing Basico. It is a joy and privilege to assist students to attain higher education through my work with the Education Scholarship Support Program through CCAMRE.

ccamre.educationprogram.cecilia@outlook.com

Medical Program

By Sandra Holloway Guatemala has a new President who is a doctor. This has had an impact on priorities for Guatemalan people. New equipment and supplies were delivered to La Union Centro del salud; new beds, a delivery chair and other items. The President also sent out a directive to all doctors on health care priorities for the upcoming year.

1. Prevention of chronic malnutrition.
2. Launching a grand crusade on nutrition for Guatemala municipalities;
3. Maintain minimum levels of supplies.
4. Initiate education on family gardens and orchards.
5. Travel to areas where the most vulnerable reside.

Dr Ayala is committed to the above plan and in doing so brought a team of nurses to each location CCAMRE visited to provide medical care. Over 130 individuals were seen by health care professionals each day. Women were given PAP tests and young women given cloth menstrual pads and taught how to use them. In addition, a local pediatrician volunteered one day and even more patients were seen.

In keeping with Guatemala's health priorities, our garden project in Peña Blanca will fit in well as families construct family garden plots where they will eventually be able to sell some of their produce.

Medical Situation



Dr Ayala made a presentation to community leaders regarding the state of health of La Union communities. She identified three major concerns:

1. Respiratory Illness
2. Diarrhea
3. Malnutrition

Total population is 35,899 with the largest population being women of childbearing years followed by adolescents. There were 123,531 consults in 2019 which is an increase of approx. 20,000 from the previous year. The top five complaints were urinary tract

infections followed by common cold and bacterial tonsillitis, respiratory infections and intestinal bacterial infections. Deaths largely were because of pneumonia or Bronchopneumonia, cerebra vascular incidents or congestive cardiac insufficiency and myocardial infarcts.

Water and Sanitation

There are 559 urban homes with access to water and have a latrine or indoor plumbing whereas there are 5,239 rural homes and only 4229 of them have access to water and have toilet facilities of some kind. CCAMRE will continue to work with the communities and the Rotary Club of Gualan to bring water and sanitation up to standards in the next few years.

Summary

I believe this was an effective medical mission. Much of the medicines were used with a shortfall of vitamins and some antibiotics. We should continue to provide medicines for respiratory illness and antibiotics to treat urinary tract infections. A plan to educate both students and parents needs to be designed and implemented to address the issues of concern outlined by the President. *Signed by* Sandra I. Holloway,
airforcegirl46@hotmail.com Director Medical/Dental



Dental Program



By Jennifer Woodworth: This past March 2020, I participated in my fifth Dental Mission with CCAMRE. With an amazing group of dentists from Canada and Guatemala. Dr. Russell Grover, Dental Assistant Mary Jane Pedro, and myself Dental Hygienist we set out to visit the Mayan Chorti people in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala. We saw patients in four villages, Taguaini, Volcancito, Peña Blanca Jocoral, and the dental clinic donated by Dr. Russell Grover in the town of La Union. We helped 200 people become free from pain during this Mission!! That's an amazing

accomplishment! As these villages are very remote the villagers have no access to routine dental care until we come to them once a year. It can take up to an hour or more riding in the back of pick-up trucks with all our supplies and equipment to reach a village. The need is great and patients are lined up waiting for us when we arrive! We set up all our necessary equipment then work tirelessly until all the patients have been taken care of. We work very hard to get everyone out of pain. It's wonderful to pull into a village and see familiar faces and to meet new friends along the way. Making connections is such a big part of CCAMRE. It's the best part! The people of Guatemala are so beautiful, caring, and loving. The lives we touch, the love we give and receive gives me such an emotional bond with this country. Guatemala is in my soul.

jwoodworth63@gmail.com



By Maria Fernanda Ruiz: I am the EPS for 2020, in La Union, from the University of San Carlos of Guatemala. During the 2020 mission trip, we had the opportunity to use the new dental equipment donated by Dr. Russell Grover, which made our work and life easier and more comfortable. Also, it helped us to be more efficient so we could treat as many patients as we could. Thank you to CCAMRE's mission team for letting me participate this year, and for allowing me to share this remarkable experience with such good people. I loved the experience. Thank you CCAMRE, Dr. Russell Grover and to everyone who contributed to this annual mission. I hope it can continue.

2020 Mission, Agriculture Project Report



By Eva Carlin:

On March 4th, 2020, the coordinator from Harvest Project (HP) and his team visited the community of Peña Blanca, in La Union, Zacapa. They explained to the community the agricultural project. The residents from Peña Blanca showed interest and enthusiasm for this new initiative. Some of the residents shared with us that they have seen this agricultural project in other communities, and they have

seen its success. We were planning to start this project May 2020. However, we rescheduled it for May 2021 due to Covid-19. This agricultural project will bring families from zero production of vegetables to producing three harvests during the course of a year, making a total of nine harvests during the three-year time, and they will be fully trained to continue the process after the project is completed. In order to achieve production in the dry season and reduce the risk of loss in times of drought, we will build the Rainwater Catchment. The whole process will have qualified, technical accompaniment to introduce and train the participants on themes of soil and water conservation, the use of natural and organic inputs, sowing and planting methods, crop rotation, control of pests and diseases through organic techniques and water harvesting and its use for irrigation of the gardens. We will provide a full report of this project later in 2021. ecarlin@canadiancamre.org

Covid-19 Fundraising Report

Thank you from CCAMRE

As the world continues to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, your Holiday Season gift donation has brought much needed relief to the villagers of Volcancito, Pena Blanca, and the seniors of Timushan. On January 29th, these Mayan Chorti communities in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala received the much needed food supplies.

Your support has definitely helped these families in need.

Again, thank you for your support



From CCAMRE Board of Directors



By Eva Carlin: The CCAMRE's Covid-19 Food Fundraising campaign 2020 was a huge success. It was heartwarming to see how people responded. All of us, in one way or another, are being impacted by this pandemic hence I am touched and grateful to the Canadian community coming through and helping us to raise funds for this worthy cause.

We have distributed food baskets and boxes to three hundred families in Volcancito and Peña Blanca. We have also donated food to the municipality de La Union.

Hearing from our administrator in Guatemala, she shared with us how grateful and appreciative are the Mayan-Chorti indigenous people for the food donation they received. As COVID-19 continues to spread, the future has never felt so unpredictable. CCAMRE believes that nutrition is very important to all human beings and helps to provide

good nutrition especially to the children in the mountains. We also thank the Mayor, Gustavo Galván, and the Municipality of La Unión for their unconditional support by providing the transportation and driving the food to the remote communities. ecarlin@canadiancamre.org



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

Canada:

- Dr. Russell Grover and personnel from the Grover Dental Group of Hamilton, for their participation in our missions. Special appreciations to Dr. Grover for his continued support to the Dental Programme in La Union, Zapaca, Since 2004
- To Mrs. Clara Lovisotto, Mr. Eddy Lovisotto and Mr. Teddy Lovisotto and family, of JOHNVALE CONTRACTORS LTD. SHIMO CONTRACTING INC. and PLY INVESTMENTS of King City, Ont. For participating in our missions to Guatemala, for their continue support to our many projects and programs. Specially for their generous donation toward Covid19 Food Fundraising.
- Ms. Mabel Lim, for her generous contribution and support to our many projects and programs specially the Senior Project, Education and Covid19 Food Fundraising.
- Mr. David Dunlap and Pamela Brickenden of "Canada Given" for their continue support.
- Rotary Club of Oakville, for their support to our Covid19 Food Fundraising.
- Guatemalan Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, for their support to our missions to Guatemala.
- Appleby United Church in Burlington. For their continue support to the Scholarship Program and the Covid19 Food Fundraising.
- The Rotary Club of St. Catharines. For their continue support to the Water Project and the Covid-19 Fundraising.
- The Canadian media for their help in sharing our work and events with the community.

In Guatemala:

- Elida Arroyo Galdámez, CCAMRE 's Administrador in La Unión, Zacapa
- Santos Vasquez, CCAMRE's Projects and Programs Coordinator in the Merendon Mountains, La Unión, Zacapa.
- Victoriano Suchite, CCAMRE Supporter in Volcancito.
- Miguela Hernandez, Coordinator of the Children Breakfast Program in Volcancito.
- Lorena Salguero, Scholarship Coordinator
- Mr. Octavio Galván, Mayor of La Union, Zacapa, Guatemala.
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- Ms. Zoila Salguero, Sewing Program, since 2000.
- Ms. Reina Garcia, for her support to the SACP and Sewing Program.

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