



# CCAMRE Newsletter

THE DISASTER MIGHT BE OVER, BUT THE RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUES.

FALL / WINTER 2011

[WWW.CANADIANCAMRE.ORG](http://WWW.CANADIANCAMRE.ORG)



## OUR VISION

CCAMRE is a community of Canadians working in partnership with a community of Central-Americans resulting in improved lives in both regions.

## OUR MISSION

CCAMRE focuses on initiatives that enhance the capacity of communities to become self-sufficient.

## OUR MANDATE

To share our resources of skills, knowledge and funds to work for:

- Relief effort
- Education and awareness building
- Medical Aid
- Partnership development
- Networking Fundraising
- Community planning and Economic Development

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Sewing projects
- Education - Scholarships
- Baking project
- Rotating fertilizer project
- Senior's project
- Yearly missions
- Dental clinic
- Dental teams
- Medical teams

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Hilda Rossi
Vice President	Julie Cordasco
Treasurer	Marylin Hallgren
Secretary	Bonnie Fuller
Director	Carlos Augusto Sánchez
Director	Andy McCormick
Director	Diane Keating
Director	Myrna Veliz

## RUN/WALKATHON – for the Children of Merendon Mountains.



On Saturday, August 27, 2011, CCAMRE held its Run/Walk For The Children of Merendon Mountains, Guatemala" at Erindale Park in Mississauga. The primary aim of this event was to raise funds for education for children in the Merendon Mountains. The 5 and 10-kilometer paths through the park and along the banks of the Credit River were scenic and picturesque. With great weather and support from The Rotary Club, Mississauga-Airport and CCAMRE's loyal supporters, the event was a resounding success. The money raised from this event will support CCAMRE's continued educational

programs. **Thank you to our sponsors, supporters and participants.**  
**Toni Primavera, Run/Walkathon Coordinator.**

## SENIORS' PROJECT - VOLCANCITO

Seen on the picture is CCAMRE's Guatemalan coordinator Señor Santos and long time Guatemalan CCAMRE volunteer Señora Zoila, distributing to the Seniors of Volcancito, their summer delivery of food vitamins, minerals, anti parasites and other essential items. CCAMRE's Seniors Project in Volcancito helps to ease the hardship for the elders with these donations given four times per year. These feeble and ill seniors look forward to receiving their bin of rations. They walk a long way up and down the mountainside to get to the Community Centre in Volcancito on distribution day.



## HOUSE CONSTRUCTION FOR WIDOWS OF VOLCANCITO

The construction of a house for one of CCAMRE's seniors, Señora Santos and her widowed daughter, Señora Vitalina, who has eight children, is near completion. Dr. Richard Morris and a woman, who prefers to remain anonymous, made the construction of this house possible with their generous and kind donations. CCAMRE thanks both Individuals for their contribution in helping to improve the living conditions of these women and their children. The municipality of La Union graciously donated the land and the expertise of a bricklayer. The donations provided by Dr. Morris and the anonymous individual were used for the purchase of the construction material. Hilda Rossi and Bonnie Fuller will be traveling to the Merendon Mountains in November for 3 weeks and will bring back pictures of the new house. The newly constructed house will replace Señora Santos and Señora Vitalina's mud Adobe huts.

## AGRICULTURE - MORINGA TREE PROJECT

CCAMRE has been working to introduce new crops in the villages of Volcancito, Peña Blanca, and Timushan. The Moringa tree was selected as one of the crops to grow because of its high nutritional characteristics. CCAMRE's Agricultural Project Leader, Andy Harjula, introduced it in 2010. In 2011, with the support of San Carlos University Agriculture students Irene Flores and Rony Chali, Andy Harjula trained the villagers in planting the seeds and caring for them from seedling stage to the full growth of the tree and also how to make Moringa powder from them. More than 6,000 Moringa seeds were planted with much crop success. Candy and Julio Ortega, CCAMRE volunteers and experts in the growth and usage of the Moringa tree provided training pertaining to its nutritional value, and how to mix the Moringa powder with corn and beans for daily consumption and nutrition.

## AGRICULTURE - FERTILIZER PROJECT

For the last five years, CCAMRE has been offering the Fertilizer Loan Project, to farmers in six villages in the Merendon Mountains in order to increase their crop production. This loan is based on a rotation process where the repayment is made once the crop has been harvested. The loan is distributed to more than 410 families, and benefits more than 2,100 people indirectly. **By Carlos Sanchez Economic Director**

Conchita, RN & Dr. Osbel attending a patient



Sewing Project.



### SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM

"The children are the future of change and improvement to the village of Volcancito." These beautiful children are so eager to learn and if provided with the tools of education, creativity, and leadership, their self-awareness, and confidence will allow them to work towards a positive, productive, and cohesive future. CCAMRE believes strongly that if these children are given a chance through education, then they will live on to lead productive lives and will break the cycle of poverty.

The Sponsor a Child program will be launched in December 2011. Bonnie Fuller, Board Director of CCAMRE, has received pictures, biographies and completed application forms of numerous children of Volcancito whose families are happy to be involved in the Sponsor a Child Program.

The mothers of the sponsored children will volunteer their time to cook and serve a Breakfast Program, which will feed all the school children. At present, these children go to school hungry. How can a child learn on an empty stomach?

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, please contact **Bonnie Fuller at [bonniejeanfuller@gmail.com](mailto:bonniejeanfuller@gmail.com) or 905-338-7926.**



### DENTAL INFORMATION

Josean Jordan, student from San Carlos University of Guatemala completed his eight month internship at the Dental Clinic in La Union, October 2011. During the last quarter of his work term, Jose made two trips to the Merendon Mountains. The first was to Pena Blanca where he treated 20 patients. His second trip took him to Volcancito where he treated 30 patients. Jose will be sadly missed as he was a compassionate practitioner. All of us here at CCAMRE would

like to wish him well in his future endeavors. **Julie Cordasco, Vice President.**

**SEWING PROJECT - PENA BLANCA:** The men and women involved with the sewing project are very enthusiastic and focused. The group is busy working with the fabric, two treadle machines and patterns provided to them in March. There are a number of mature women who are very good hand sewers and Abel the group leader (a capable machine operator) who should be able to assist the younger girls with their skills. The sewing group which is large has difficulty replacing threads, needles and other sewing items which they use up quickly as none of them have any form of reliable transportation in order to travel to larger centres. The group earned quetzals in March by helping make curtains for the Dental Clinic in La Union enabling them to purchase needed sewing items. The group is off to a very strong start.

**SEWING PROJECT - VOLCANCITO:** The group in Volcancito is small as the village is spread out and divided with most of the people living on the top area of the mountain which is further away from the Sewing Group in the Multi Skills Centre which is in the lower less populated area. This small group though strong in their sewing skills is losing some momentum and is trying to encourage other villagers to join the group. They have asked for a coordinator/teacher to bring new life into the group as they do not have the confidence to do this on their own. Volcancito group makes wonderful shawls, purses, pillows and baby booties though getting to sell their items in the larger center has proved very difficult. CCAMRE continues to work with them to somehow resolve this obstacle.

### DONATIONS

**Donating to CCAMRE has become even easier!**

Simply go to the [WWW.CANADAHELPS.ORG](http://WWW.CANADAHELPS.ORG) website and enter our full name: **Canadian Central American Relief Effort** and follow the prompts. Donations are always welcomed and are tax deductible.

**For more information contact:**

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**SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM:** In December, CCAMRE will introduce a New Program "Sponsor a Child". This could be a great gift for Christmas. Details coming soon.

### HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This project continues to be an important tool that facilitates the continued education for high school students. Currently CCAMRE sponsors 29 students from Timushan, Pena Blanca and Volcancito. Before CCAMRE support to the communities Mayan Chorti the young people never had access to secondary education.

### COMING EVENTS

#### ANNUAL GALA- FEBRUARY 2012

Plans are under way for our annual "A Grand Latin Evening" being held at Le Treport in Mississauga in early February. We will feature a great Latin band, guest musical performer during a sit down dinner complemented with wine, delightful evening entertainment, superb silent auction and a great deal of fun and excitement to complete your evening. More details to come soon.

#### 2012 MISSION TO GUATEMALA

The preparation of CCAMRE's 2012 Mission to Guatemala is in development, There will be two groups: Medical and Dental February 25 to March 11<sup>th</sup> and Sewing, Economic Development and Education March 17<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like information about this mission please call **Andy McCormick or Ana Paredes.**

#### CCAMRE 2012 CALENDARS

are on sale Now. If you would like to place an order please call Julie Cordasco at (905) 335-6158 email: [juliecordasco@canadiancamre.org](mailto:juliecordasco@canadiancamre.org), or Hilda Rossi.

