



CCARE Newsletter

The disaster might be over, but the healing has just begun.

SPRING 2007

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

CCARE 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
- Partnership development
- Networking
- Fundraising
- Community planning and Economic Development

GRAND LATIN DINNER AND DANCE

Last year's Grand Latin Dinner and Dance, held back in January '07, was a great success. Along with a wonderful dinner and dance with live music, we were wowed by the enthusiasm of the Latin Energy and Viva Dancers. Our next Grand Latin Dinner and Dance will be held Friday, February 1, 2008 at Le Treport Banquet Hall in Mississauga. Once again we are looking forward to a great evening of dining, dancing and entertainment.

RUN-A-THON WALK-A-THON AUGUST 25, 2007

The 2007 Run/Walk for the Children of the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala was held on August 25th along the Waterfront Trail at Spencer Smith Park in Burlington. The race started at the Gazebo at 9:30 am and although the weather did not co-operate with us, all those who participated had a good time. The rain did not dampen our spirits as we enjoyed Calvin the Magician before the Run, as well as the Latin food and prizes. The children even got the opportunity to try to open our pinata of goodies. Pledges collected fund many of the projects in which CCARE is involved, to help the Mayan Chorti villages of the Merendon Mountains.

CALENDAR SALES

Once again, as part of our fundraising efforts, CCARE has printed a calendar for the New Year (2008). This calendar has been reworked and is a fresh new work of art for 2008. During the mission, Hilda and Della collected drawings and pictures coloured by the students of the various villages. We have included some of these in this year's calendar and feel they make a truly unique addition. Our thanks go out to Della, Jennifer and Bonnie for making these calendars so wonderful. These calendars are available for only \$10.00 and are well worth every penny, either for your own use or as a gift. Please contact Hilda or any Board member to order yours soon.



MISSION TRIP 2007

This spring our President, Hilda Rossi and Membership Co-ordinator, Della Redwood, traveled to Guatemala. It was decided that this year's mission would be limited in number, as the political climate made the area somewhat unstable. However, CCARE wanted to re-inforce their continued commitment and desire to help. The pair visited the indigenous communities of Timushan, Volcancito, Pena Blanca and La Vegona in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala. It was a very busy mission for both Hilda and Della as they evaluated the present projects and investigated the possibilities of new ones.



5km Run/Walk
1km Children's/Fun Walk
for the Children of the
Merendon Mountains
Guatemala



www.canadiancare.org
 Charitable Reg. #
 87483 7602 RR0001

Saturday, August 25, 2007
Spencer Smith Park
Burlington, Ontario

Register online: www.vrpro.ca

For information: 905-639-8053
hrossi@cogeco.ca



**Canadian Central
 American Relief Effort
 (CCARE)**

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SENIORS PROJECT

This is a new project for CCARE. In the past we have worked with the communities as a whole, not just one portion of the village. However, this past year CCARE has received a donation dedicated solely to the support of the seniors. During this year's mission, Hilda and Della interviewed 8 seniors and asked them what their needs and desires were. Based on these interviews, they purchased mostly nutritional items and storage containers for these items. With the donation CCARE received we were able to commit to 3 more installments of these items over the next year. We are looking forward to being able to continue this program over the years to come as well.

HURRICANE STAN PROJECT

This new project was born to help the victims of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala, and we will start a new project in San Jose Churrin, Mazatenango. Meetings took place with ADICO a Guatemalan organization that will implement this project. The good news is that Revenue Canada has approved the project and it has started.

SEWING PROJECT

This project continues to be a success, in the villages of Volcancito, Peña Blanca and Timushan. However, this year was a unique experience as the Comité de Mujeres of La Vegona joined the ranks of people that CCARE has helped to learn to sew. CCARE was shown an exhibition and presented with tokens of their magnificent work. These tokens will be on display at CCARE's office. The sewers are meeting their families' clothing needs with a view to an entrepreneur concept in the future. Their skills will continue to improve with practice. Inexpensive material is in short supply however, so donations of fabric, thread and other sewing supplies are welcomed.

DENTAL CLINIC

CCARE has entered into a joint agreement with the University de San Carlos of Guatemala in Guatemala City, to establish a permanent dental clinic in the Medical Clinic in La Union, Zacapa. This will enable the Mayan Chorti of the nearby villages, to have complete access to free dental care. Dental equipment and supplies were donated by one our members, Dr. Russell Grover and were recently sent to Guatemala. We have just been informed that the clinic should be up and running by mid February 2008 and will have it's grand opening when our Dental Mission members arrive in late March 2008.

HURRICANE STAN PROJECT

This new project was born to help the victims of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala, specifically in San Jose Churrin, Mazatenango. We are working with ADICO in Guatemala to supply the machinery and materials for the natives to build bricks so they can re-build their homes. This project received approval from Revenue Canada and is now in the beginning stages of implementation.

SEWING PROJECT

This project continues to be a success in the villages of Volcancito and Pena Blanca. This year the Comité de Mujeres of La Vegona joined this project and learned to sew. CCARE was shown an exhibition and presented with tokens of these wonderful, women's abilities. Through sewing, these women are meeting their family's clothing needs with a view to an entrepreneur concept for the future. Their skills will continue to improve with practice. CCARE has supplied the fabric and sewing notions for this project to continue and hopes to continue with these supplies.

EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

CCARE offers a scholarship program for tuition fees for each academic year as well as uniforms, school supplies and daily snacks. Currently we support roughly 13 students from Pena Blanca and Volcancito, but the list of students requiring help is steadily growing. This spring CCARE purchased 4 typewriters to help the students finish their programs. Our current success story is Johana from Timushan. She has completed her Auxiliary Nurse Assistant program with the aid of funding from CCARE and would like to work on her professional Nurse course. Although she must spend a lot of time on her studies, Johana also has a job to help support her family. In order to continue, she still needs our financial help. She is truly a wonderful example of how your donations are helping to pave the way for a better future. CCARE is committed to her success. Upcoming Projects 2008. A new education project for Volcancito is currently in the planning stages. Mississauga-Airport Rotary Club, along with Bolton Rotary and Rotary Gualan (Guatemala) are working on a proposal for an in-depth, long term, education project which will include a breakfast program, extra teachers and supplies, as well as the possibility of a water project in the next year or two. CCARE will be a co-operating organization once this project has been approved by Rotary. This is truly an exciting project, as education is a key factor towards growth and self-sustaining villages.

CORN GRINDING MACHINE AND POULTRY PROJECT

All the corn-grinding machines donated by CCARE are operating and are in good condition.

Sixty families in Pena Blanca host a successful poultry project. Twelve families will be helped by the rest of the families to achieve the same level of success. CCARE will have to re-establish this project in Volcancito in order to achieve this same success.

UPCOMING PROJECTS 2008

A new education project for Volcancito is currently in the planning stages. Mississauga-Airport Rotary Club, along with Bolton Rotary and Rotary Gualan (Guatemala) are working on a proposal for an in-depth, long term, education project which will include a breakfast program, extra teachers and supplies, as well as the possibility of a water project in the next year or two. CCARE will be a co-operating organization once this project has been approved by Rotary. This is truly an exciting project, as education is a key factor towards growth and self-sustaining villages.

MISSION 2008

Although 2007 had a small mission component, we are pleased to announce that for 2008 we will be having a full Medical, Dental and Educational mission. Plans are being made and we hope to further our mandate of aid to the villages of the Merendon Mountains.

If you would like to know more about our missions and the work being done in Guatemala, please contact CCARE at Phone # 905-849-8350 or by email at hrossi@cogeco.ca.

DONATIONS: Donations are always welcomed and are tax deductible. Please make your cheque payable to CCARE and mail to the following:

CCARE c/o Hilda Rossi, 110 Grandeur Crescent, Oakville, ON L6H 4B4

Remember, by joining our events you are becoming part of CCARE's worthwhile cause.

EDUCATION PROJECT

The scholarship program provides tuition fees for the current academic year, uniforms, school supplies and daily snacks for 13 students from Peña Blanca and Volcancito. During this year's mission, CCARE purchased four typewriters to help them finish their programs. Johanna, from Timushan, is working hard to successfully complete the Auxiliary Nurse program. Johanna is truly a wonderful example of how your donations are helping to pave the way for a better future. Johanna works very hard in her nursing program and on the weekends also works on her B.A. Her only problem, as she told Della and Hilda, is that she misses her family. A very caring Canadian woman donates throughout the years money to CCARE to provide for her educational needs. Several other students and parents from all the villages approached Hilda for help with education.

DENTAL CLINIC

CCARE has entered into a joint agreement with the University de San Carlos de Guatemala, in Guatemala City, to establish a permanent dental clinic in the Medical Clinic in La Union Zacapa. This will enable the Mayan Chorti of the nearby villages, to have complete access to free dental care. Dental equipment and supplies were donated by one of our members Dr. Russell Grover and were recently sent to Guatemala. In the spring of 2008, our Dental Mission members will be traveling to Guatemala and we hope the clinic will be fully functional at that time.

CORN GRINDING MACHINE AND POULTRY PROJECT

All the corn-grinding machines donated by CCARE are operating and are in good condition. Sixty families of Pena Blanca host a very successful poultry project. Twelve families will be helped by the rest of the families to achieve the same level of success. CCARE will have to re-establish the project with different parameters in Volcancito in order to achieve the same success.

If you would like to know more about our missions and the work being done in Guatemala, please contact CCARE 905-849-8350, hrossi@cogeco.ca

Donations: Donations are welcome and are tax deductible. Please make cheque payable to: **CCARE** and mail to:

CCARE, c/o Hilda Rossi, 110 Grandeur Crescent, Oakville, Ont. L6H 4B4

UPCOMING EVENTS

A new project for Volcancito is in the planning stages. Mississauga-Airport Rotary Club and Rotary Gualan (Guatemala) are working on a proposal for a very in-depth education project. CCARE will be a cooperating organization if this proposal is accepted.

The Fundraising Committee is thinking of hosting a Fall Fashion Show. Look on the website for further details; please let us know if you would like to be part of this event.

The Grand Latin Dinner and Dance on January 26th was a great success (see picture). The proceeds from this event go towards our ongoing projects for the Mayan Chorti natives of Guatemala.

The next Grand Latin Dinner and Dance is planned for Friday, January 25th, 2008 at Le Treport Banquet Hall, in Mississauga.

Remember, by joining our events you are becoming part of CCARE's worthwhile cause.

Special appreciation and recognition to Della Redwood and Marilyn Hallgren for the Editorial and Coordination of this Newsletter