



Relief organization holds fundraising banquet

Dominik Kurek

January 2, 2009

A relief agency dedicated to helping Central Americans is holding a fundraiser next month in Mississauga.

The Canadian Central American Relief Effort (CCARE) is hosting a banquet on Feb. 6 at Le Treport Banquet Hall (1075 The Queensway E.) in support of its Guatemalan project.

CCARE, founded 10 years ago by former Mississauga resident Hilda Rossi, who now lives in Oakville, provides economic development, education and health initiatives in the Merendon Mountains of Guatemala, where some 22,000 people in 36 villages have been hit by heavy storms and left homeless in the past decade. Many have also died, while others have been left without livestock or possessions.

CCARE is a non-government, not-for-profit organization run by volunteers. The banquet is the organization's main fundraising event.

Rossi says those CCARE helps are living in misery. They eat and sleep on dirt and have no way to build proper beds or tables.

"They're not lazy people. They're intelligent people, but they don't have the tools to build anything," said Rossi, noting there's no electricity in the region and the people live in mud huts.

When heavy rains come, the homes crumble, she added.

Banquet tickets cost \$50. A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and buffet dinner begins at 8 p.m. There will be a silent raffle, latin dancers, a guest singer and dancing to the live music of Havana Express.

For tickets, call 905-849-8350 or e-mail hrossi@cogeco.ca.

dkurek@mississauga.net

This article is for personal use only courtesy of Mississauga.com - a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd.