



CCARE NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2008

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
- Medical Aid

CCARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008

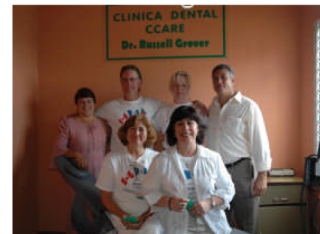
This year's Annual General Meeting was held on February 21, 2008. An election was held to vote in the new Board of Directors. The new board consists of: Hilda Rossi - President, Ana Paredes - Vice-President, Marylin Hallgren - Treasurer, Rosie DeBiasi - Fundraising Director, and the newest member, Karen Byrnes - Secretary.

5KM RUN/WALK/STROLLER ROLL

This year the annual 5km Run, Walk and Stroller Roll will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at Spencer Smith Park in Burlington. The stroller roll is a new addition for parents with babies or toddlers who wish to run or walk in a separate leg of the event. We encourage individuals and families to participate in support of the children of the Merendon Mountains. Prizes will be awarded. Any donations would be appreciated. Volunteers are needed to help organize and help on the day of the event. Contact Hilda Rossi at 905-849-8350 or e-mail at hrossi@cogeco.ca

DINNER/DANCE 2008

CCARE held its 8th Annual Grand Latin Dinner and Dance on February 1, 2008 at LeTreport Banquet Hall in Mississauga. The evening was a success with an appetizing buffet and a high-energy atmosphere. Music was supplied by Havana Express and two extremely talented Latin dancers from the Mambo Dream Team put on an incredible performance. A quick lesson was given to those guests who wished to participate. A shoebox style raffle was held with an array of prizes from a hammock to huge gift baskets with different assortments. A big thanks you to all who donated prizes. A special thank you to Hispana Travel for the grand prize, which was a trip to South America and thanks to all who contributed and attended this event.



DENTAL MISSION 2008

Dr. Russell Grover went on his fifth mission with a team of six this year. Four dental students from the local university made themselves available as translators and assistants. This year was the grand opening of the new dental clinic in La Union. The mayor, the governor of Zacapa, and the Director of San Carlos University were some of those present when the clinic was presented to the community. A piece of the ribbon was given to everyone for a keepsake and in honor of Dr. Grover the clinic was named after him. (Dr. Russell Grover Clinica Dental) In four days they treated 361 patients, performed 600 extractions, 127 cleanings, and ten restorations. Dr. Grover is continuing to develop a relationship with the Dean of the university and an agreement has been reached whereby his dental students will serve at the clinic for an eight-month period before they graduate.

MEDICAL MISSION 2008

Dr. Conners participated in her first mission this year. She conducted fetal ultrasounds on the women in Pena Blanca, Timushan, and Volcancito. This was the first time they had ever heard their babies' heartbeats and it brought huge smiles to their faces. Six months worth of multiple vitamins were provided to the clinic to treat anemia, an iron deficiency. Common illnesses such as colds, urinary tract infections, and bronchitis were treated as well. Dr. Conners plans to focus on future projects involving midwives and family planning education.

This year, as part of the medical mission, assessments were conducted to get an idea of the villagers near and farsightedness. Those tested ranged in age from five to 64. Forty-two per cent had 20/20 vision. The results for nearsightedness were not as positive. Twenty-two per cent could not see clearly even with the highest strength glasses. Only seven per cent had clear vision without any aid. Forty-eight per cent needed glasses of 2.0 strength and above. CCARE provided 50 sample reading glasses ranging from 1.0 to 3.25 in strength. These were left in the community centres in each village for villagers to sign out for short-term use. On next year's mission CCARE is hoping to provide glasses for everyone, especially for children to improve their chances of being successful in participating and completing their education.