



**Canadian Central  
American Relief Effort  
(CCARE)  
Charity Number  
87483-7602-RR0001**

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## YOUTH

"The children are the future of change and improvement to these remote villages and I feel there is so much potential among them. They need to be provided the tools of education, creativity, leadership, self-awareness, and group dynamics allowing them to work towards a positive, productive, and cohesive future," said Cecilia Bardsley, CCARE Youth Mission Coordinator.

Each year CCARE tries to allocate time to work specifically with the youth in the villages. This year Cecilia was able to dedicate all her time to the children, involving them in many various crafts and games. They responded with awesome creativity and determination. Rock painting, beading and braiding, fabric painting, and sewing were amongst the various crafts completed. Numerous games were played with a focus of promoting fairness, equal opportunity, and acceptance within the groups. The goal was to develop listening skills, follow instructions, observe and demonstrate rules of behavior and cooperation, and practice patience and understanding. Craft materials, school supplies, educational aids, and toys were left with the teachers in Timushan and Volcancito. Cecilia also visited the children at the Nutritional Centre in La Union who were being treated for malnutrition over a 6-8 week period. Balls, skipping ropes, work books, and more were left for these children as well. Overall Cecilia's time with the children was a great success and they responded with respect and eagerness.

## ENVIRONMENT

The latest project CCARE is working on in regards to the environment is the idea of all organic family gardens, meaning no pesticides or chemicals. Villagers in Pena Blanca, Volcancito, and Timushan have all shown a high interest in the project. CCARE's goal is to improve their environmental knowledge, and their overall nutrition and health. A composting demo has been started at the school in Volcancito, so the community can begin to learn how to compost and see the positive outcome.

CCARE is trying to sway the villagers away from unhealthy eating habits by introducing them to vegetables like cucumbers and carrots for the first time. The children loved the vegetables. Pumpkin, tamarind, cucumber, hot pepper, and coriander seeds have been distributed along with Aloe Vera plants. The communities would like to receive more organic seeds from the region.

## EDUCATION

Once again this year, Maria Carmen Romero, a representative of Schools Assisting Schools and a CCARE member, joined our mission and provided a training program for the teachers in the area La Union area. The response was overwhelming with 200 teachers attending over three days. Some of the topics included strategies for teaching children with disabilities, ways to incorporate creative activities and tactile materials into the program, and workshops on how to use various craft materials. Packages of materials were provided for all the teachers.

This year CCARE and Schools Assisting Schools joined in the beginnings of a joint assessment project to track the impact of CCARE in raising the standard of education. Current levels of skill in reading and math were measured. Medical information (height, weight and medical/nutritional conditions) was recorded for a baseline. The impact CCARE has, over the next 5 years of programs, will be assessed as the students' progress and performance improvements are tracked. This is an exciting co-operative effort for our two organizations and we look forward to furthering this project.

CCARE's scholarship program continues with 20 young adults currently enrolled.

## GLOBAL FIREGROUND PROJECT

Ron Kyle, a firefighter from Toronto, representing Operation Christmas Tree and Global Fireground participated in this year's mission to assess the needs and determine what resources are available to the firefighters in the Zacapa region. Meetings took place in Gualan, La Union, Zacapa and Rio Hondo to determine the firefighters' level of training, degree of commitment, and capabilities. Ron's report will provide recommendations to discuss and assess.

## WATER ASSESSMENT

Aldo Villanovich, from the Bolton Rotary Club, representing Rotary International, traveled with our mission to do a needs assessment on the water system in the area. He met with government officials in Guatemala City, Zacapa, Gualan and La Union to discuss community water and sewer needs. The objective was to listen to the respective officials who outlined their specific needs for assistance with water and sewer projects. A report will be provided with recommendations for further discussion and assessment.

## DONATIONS

Donations are always welcomed and are tax deductible. Remember, by contributing you are becoming part of CCARE's worthwhile cause. Please make your cheque payable to CCARE and mail to the following:

**CCARE c/o Hilda Rossi, 1101 Grandeur Crescent, Oakville, ON L6H 4B4**

Visit our website at [www.canadiancare.org](http://www.canadiancare.org) for further information about CCARE and our ongoing work efforts or contact us at (905) 849-8350 or e-mail [hrossi@coqeco.ca](mailto:hrossi@coqeco.ca).