



Romancito Alberto Palma



"I know what it is to have and then the next day to have nothing."

"I put God first and pray in the mornings and nights."

Born to Miguel and Eluminda Palma, Romancito Alberto Palma, affectionately known as 'Roman', was their only boy along with his three sisters: Rosita Palma Dominguez, Jessica Palma Vasquez and Camrita Elenita Palma.

Roman was born and raised in the peaceful town of San Ignacio, Cayo District, Belize where he attended primary school and then moved on to *Mopan Technical High School* where he also played football for the school. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1988, he joined the Police Force for 3 years. After celebrating his 21st birthday, he moved to Los Angeles, California for 8 years before moving to his now permanent home of over 20 years, Chicago, Illinois.

Roman is the proud father of 5 children: Naidy, Nerelie, Haily, Tyler and Spenser and an extra proud grandfather of two, Sofia and Gretchen. He enjoys cooking and gardening and this is where his giving back to his country is influenced by.

After moving to his present home of Chicago, Roman wanted to make more of his life and one day after walking away from his job, where he was giving his all yet feeling unappreciated, he walked into a Home Depot and this was the beginning of his now well-known business, *Ramon & Sons Sewer and Water Inc.* He visited his local Home Depot and purchased a few tools he would need in order to start working on his own. While at the store, he gave his contact information to some costumers and, as it is told that word of mouth is the best advertisement, this is exactly how *Roman & Sons Sewer and Water Inc.* began to grow. Eighteen (18) years later, *Roman & Sons Sewer and Water Inc.* is a licensed company in Zion, IL with over 6 employees.

Roughly about 4 years ago, Roman started traveling back to his motherland Belize and, every time he visits, he is sure to take back to the most needed. From finding needed assistance requests via Facebook posts or hearing stories from friends of someone who is in need, Roman is sure to reach out to them to render aid.

In 2017, he started giving a full scholarship including uniforms, bookbags and shoes to two young girls at *Mopan Technical High School*. All he asks in return is for them to keep up their *Honor Roll* status. In 2018, *Mopan Technical High School* invited Mr. Palma to be the Guest Speaker to their graduating class.



In 2017, a sad story was aired by *Channel 5 Belize News* where a young Belizean farmer from Orange Walk (taking avocados from Orange Walk to the Belize City Market) was wrongfully taken into custody for what was thought to be contrabanded avocados. Mr. Palma remembers seeing the story and being saddened when all the avocados of the gentleman were confiscated and destroyed. He immediately got in contact with him and his family and deposited into his account, the following day, the total estimate of his lost. He knew in his heart that this humble young farmer had been working hard for his earning and did not deserve what had happened to him, so he paid him for all his \$2,500.00 BZD worth of avocados.

In August of 2019, he responded to a post on Facebook where a mother was asking for assistance for her partially blind daughter needing a laptop with a special software that would help her in school. He purchased the laptop with the software and hand delivered it to them on one of his trips down to Belize. As he returned back to the US on that same month, he donated towards 5 out of 16 Merit scholarships to students who

had excelled in school at the UBNI (United Belizeans Northern Illinois), a not for profit organization poised on helping Belizeans both in Belize and in the Northern Illinois region. For this kind gesture, he was presented with an award by the UBNI organization at their annual gala.



Mr. Palma has also donated towards the *Cycling Federation of Belize* and *The Octavia Weight Center* in Cayo District which is a home for the elderly. He vividly remembers going to the center and asking what is needed. After receiving a list of what all the center was short of, Roman made it his mission to deliver it back to the center.

He is the proud owner of 12 acres of farming land in the Cayo, District where he grows corn, oranges, lime peppers, sour sap, avocados, cabbage and Chaya amongst other fruit and vegetables. Mr. Palma takes all that is grown in his farm and gives it back to the most needed in the community. He also has firewood in his farm which he chops down and hand delivers it to those in need.



His latest project is working closely with the feeding Program at *The Cornerstone Foundation*, a non-profit organization located in San Ignacio that is dedicated to supporting the surrounding community to encourage healthy living.

Mr. Roman Alberto Palma is a true meaning of a 'Belizean Star' and therefore the Consulate of Belize in Florida takes pride in honoring him as our 'Belizean Star of the Month'. We wish him all the best in his future projects in giving back to our beautiful country of Belize.

