

## CHILDREN OF HONDURAS

Howard S. Muscott, Ed.D.\*



*The First Presentation. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

As is custom in Honduras, Padre Ricardo blesses a 40-day old baby and “presents” it to the Jutiquille community where it is accepted as one of their own.



*Boy on the Streets of Rosa Sosa. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Seeing the poverty face to face the first time is heart wrenching and life changing. I'll never forget this boy we met as we were going door to door distributing dental and medical supplies in Rosa Sosa in 2005.





*Awaiting Treatment. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Eight year old David awaits a sibling who is being seen by one of the nurses at the Candelaros clinic after his own cuts had been treated.



*Self Confidence. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Padre Ricardo Donahue has built an “Oasis of Hope” in the form of an exemplar educational system for the Honduran people. Padre’s oasis includes a bi-lingual pre-kindergarten through elementary school, a middle school, a high school, a university, and a special education school. At Centro Escuela Santa Clara, a first grader displays her pride against a backdrop of new classroom furniture. The educational opportunities available to the average Honduran child pale in comparison to what Padre has made available to this girl and the others who have found his oasis.





*Portrait of a Honduran Boy who is Deaf at Escuelita Nazareth. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Many Honduran children lose their hearing as the result of childhood ear infections that go untreated. Sadly, that is what happened to his boy and two of his siblings. Fortunately, all three receive special education in the deaf education program at Escuelita Nazareth.



*Portrait of a Girl with Down Syndrome at Escuelita Nazareth. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

This young girl with Down Syndrome is extremely fortunate to attend at Escuelita Nazareth and get an education few Honduran children with disabilities ever receive.





*Waiting to Hear About School. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

On a trip to a school in San Juan Bosco, school staff pointed out this young girl who is deaf to Padre Ricardo and me, hopeful that she might attend Escuelita Nazareth. The difference in programming she would receive at Nazareth is as distinct as the differences in the physical conditions of the classrooms.



*Making Human Connections. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Rivier education major Kristin Hallee and her second grade buddy Michael share a moment outside the Jutiquille Church during Sunday mass. Michael, who attends Centro Escuela Santa Clara, lost his sight when a routine shunt procedure went terribly wrong and the surgeon cut his optic nerve. Kristin, who has battled sight problems her entire life, shared programming recommendations with teachers and administrators after spending time with Michael at school. Kristin has glaucoma and has suffered through 27 operations to address her vision problems and complications related to medications prescribed to treat the disease. Despite the best efforts of specialists, Kristin was fitted for a glass eye upon returning from our trip.





*An Annual Rite of Spring. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

The matriarch and architect of the Mary Queen of Peace Mission trips is Mary Roy. In what has become an annual rite of spring, Mary embraces Alma and her daughter upon arrival in Rosa Sosa in 2005. Having led trips for 14 years, “Mother” Mary gets to know and love many Hondurans, who show their affection during these yearly reunions.



*The Grande Abulah. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Upon entering a community village, The “Grande Abulah,” Mary Ann Breen would invariably be surrounded by children. Mary Ann crosses a field in Ojustal with six girls as team members Lynn Marcotte and Julie Milar play soccer with some boys, and others set up the medical clinic on a family porch.





*The Universal Language of Bubbles. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Blowing bubbles is a universal language and no one knows it better than Rivier College professor of English and Communications Liz Wright. Liz entertains the children of Ojustal with bubbles during our clinic.

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