

## OUR HONDURAN MISSION

Howard S. Muscott, Ed.D.\*



*A Compassionate Connection. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Compassion and the human connection are often the only medicine that nurses can give to the Honduran people. Having conducted a physical in a private room in the old church in Becerra, Rivier College Division of Nursing professor Mary Ann Breen comforts a young woman in the advanced stages of an incurable medical condition. “There was nothing I could do for her,” Mary Ann would tell me later. I disagree.



*Examining a Newborn at the Rosa Sosa Clinic. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

In a makeshift clinic outdoors in Rosa Sosa under a tin roof on a dirt floor with only cinder blocks for chairs, Patti Rawding-Anderson, a developmental pediatric physical therapist, and Lynn Marcotte, a nursing major at Rivier College, examine a very young baby.





*Conducting a Physical Exam at the Rosa Sosa Clinic. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Rivier nursing faculty member Judi O'Hara is seen here conducting a physical examination on a young boy at the Rosa Sosa clinic.





*Assessing the Extent of the Disability. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

As the Director of Program Development for Early Childhood Services for Easter Seals New Hampshire and Maine, Patti Rawding-Anderson is used to evaluating children with physical and other disabilities. Patti uses her clinical and human skills to assess the physical development and status of this Rosa Sosa boy with cerebral palsy while making him laugh. Like most Honduran children with physical disabilities, he has never been in school and has never received any therapies to address his needs.





*Distributing Supplies after the Rosa Sosa Clinic. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Handing out supplies and toys can be challenging when you're working out of the back of a truck. Rivier education majors Kim Malley and Kristin Hallee give out dental supplies, dolls, and matchbox cars to children in Rosa Sosa where the medical team provided a clinic just days earlier.





*Delivering Love. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

The Mary Queen of Peace Mission trip has made a yearly custom of “washing heads” in a small fork of an almost dried up river in the town of Leguna Seca. The power of the human connection transcends culture when Honduran women hand over their babies to complete strangers like Doug Desrosiers for a shampoo they might not get at any other time of the year. A postal worker from New Hampshire, Doug has been delivering and receiving God’s love in these Baptism-like rituals for years.





*Unpacking Supplies. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Organizing medical supplies is a never ending process. Karen Avery, a nurse who has been serving the people of Honduras for years, unpacks supplies at the Catholica Universidad residence where we stay during our trips.





*Intake at the Candelaros Clinic. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

More organized clinics occur when we have a physical space that can be secured from the inside and a community delegate who knows how to help with logistics. In the small mountain community of Candelaros, Rivier nursing major Carrie Roder gets each person's name and age as they enter the clinic. When the nurses identify a health condition that needs attention, the information is recorded and given to Padre Ricardo by the community delegate.





*Offering a Helping Hand. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Rivier nursing major Emily Roy examines a young girl's hand at the Candelaros clinic.





*How Can I Help? Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

With his stethoscope, band aids and antibiotic ointment nearby, Rivier nursing major Paul Shea interviews a young girl at the Candelaros clinic. Fortunately, she is well and can be sent back out to play.





*Escuelita Nazareth. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Escuelita Nazareth, the only special education day school in all of Honduras, celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Built by Padre Ricardo on donated land, this state of the art facility provides high level special education to approximately 62 students with disabilities. Recently donated, the land adjacent to the school will be the site of a future vocational education center.





*Sharing a Laugh. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Escuelita Nazareth serves many children, youth, and adults with Down Syndrome. Rivier education major Michelle Sherameta gets a young boy with Down Syndrome to laugh during our 2006 visit to the school.



*Modeling Literacy Instruction. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

One of the goals of the March 2006 trip was to teach literacy instruction to the faculty at Escuelita Nazareth and at Centro Escuela Santa Clara, Padre Ricardo's bilingual elementary school. Rivier College professor of education Sue Gately demonstrates a literacy lesson with materials she made in New England.





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

I found our team to be at its best when we were all together supporting a community as we did here in La Empalizada. As the medical team worked inside the church, team members Kim Malley, Carrie Roder, Kristin Lister, and Kate Matthews played games and sang songs with children outside the church.



*Accepting the Host. Photograph by Howard S. Muscott.*

Rivier College Vista Worker Tom Lopez accepts the host from one of the church women in Jutiquire. Understanding the power of the image, Padre Ricardo allows—and even encourages—photography during his masses.

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\* **Dr. HOWARD S. MUSCOTT** is professor of education and director of undergraduate special education programs and graduate programs in emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD) in the department of education at Rivier College. Dr. Muscott currently co-directs the New Hampshire Center for Effective Behavioral Interventions and Supports, a statewide technical assistance and training network aimed at promoting positive and preventive school discipline systems and improving the emotional well-being of all children including those with emotional/behavioral disorders. Muscott received his doctorate in educating students with EBD from Teachers College, Columbia University and joined the Rivier faculty in 1992. He has more than 30 years of experience in education ranging from preschool through high school and higher education. He has been a special education teacher and principal of three different schools for students with disabilities. He has been nominated for two national awards, United States Professor of the Year and the Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service-Learning, and was honored with an Excellence in Education Award by the New Hampshire College and University Council as the New Hampshire Professor of the Year in 2000. Muscott was named Distinguished Alumnae from the State University College at Buffalo, New York in 2003 for his lifelong commitment to special education. In 2004, the New Hampshire Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI-NH) honored him with their Outstanding Special Educator of the Year Award. Dr. Muscott is nationally known for his work and publications in the fields of educating students with emotional/behavioral disorders, schoolwide discipline, and service-learning. A frequent keynote speaker and consultant to schools, he has delivered more than 250 presentations to educators and families in both New Hampshire and across the country.