

By Tonia Talbott and Martha Reed

During the college Spring Break, March 4-12, Tonia Talbott, counselor at SVCC, and Martha Reed, biology faculty, led a 14 member team to Honduras on a Mountain Medical Mission Trip. The SoVa (Southside Virginia) team was comprised of nurses, students, a United Methodist pastor and other volunteers. Two of the students Ally Little and Mary Reed (Governor's School of Southside Virginia) attend SVCC. The other two students attend James Madison University and Longwood University. The Medical Mission trip is part of the Friends of Barnabas Foundation, an organization whose mission is to improve the lives of impoverished children in Honduras. During our week in Honduras, we set up medical clinics in 5 communities in the rural mountainous regions of Honduras. The medical services provided to the communities included: general medical care, vision care, dental care, prenatal and child vitamin distribution, fluoride treatments and distribution of anti-parasite medication. The team helped 1237 patients in the five communities. These regions in Honduras are very depressed due to the poor road conditions and lack of infrastructure. Seventy percent of the population in Honduras live below the poverty line and fifty-four percent live in extreme poverty. Fifty percent of all children in the regions that we visited are malnourished and many others suffer from disease and birth defects.

Each woman who came to the clinic with her family was given a handmade dishcloth, stitched by Southside Virginia volunteers, to show appreciation and common bond from our community of women to theirs.

We would like to thank everyone who supported this effort by helping raise funds for medical supplies, handmade dishcloths and prayed for our safe travels.