

DAYTON LAWYER

Creating real change

Lawyers have a distinct set of skills and knowledge. They work as members of a community that is both professional and committed to service. Graduates of the University of Dayton come from an institution where a sense of community and service runs deep. One of those graduates, Wayne Waite '82, has applied his skills and knowledge — with his commitment to community and service — to the development of a nonprofit nongovernmental organization, *Shoulder to Shoulder*. *Shoulder to Shoulder* now serves more than 35,000 people in Honduras through a mission “to develop educational and health programs to help poor rural communities achieve sustainable development and improve the overall health and well being of their residents.”

Waite offers insight on how the knowledge and skills of a UDSL lawyer can be brought to serve others:

- ▶ Lawyers understand how things work. They also know what has to happen to create meaningful change. “Where children live on less than a dollar per day, poverty is urgent and the poor deserve an advocate. Our job is to demonstrably reduce poverty in a meaningful and measureable way.”
- ▶ Lawyers — and UD grads — have a sense of community and how a community works. “Unless you work with communities, you are not able to create meaningful change. Doctors can heal a patient, but lawyers who work with doctors can clear the way to create a health care delivery system.”
- ▶ Lawyers are at ease with controversy and can handle the uncertainty that comes with international development. “We have to constantly recall that if this work were easy, someone else would have already done it.”
- ▶ Smart lawyers recognize that serving others benefits them. “I encourage all my friends to join me on a trip. Each volunteer who experiences the face of poverty is changed forever.”

Wayne Waite '82 is a managing partner at *Freund Freeze & Arnold* and has been volunteer president of *Shoulder to Shoulder* since its founding in 1996. *Shoulder to Shoulder* now operates two small hospitals and 10 remote medical centers in Honduras, providing primary care to more than 35,000 patients who live in extreme poverty. The organization hosts volunteers from Dayton and a number of other universities and is conducting research with the *Mathile Institute for the Advancement of Human Nutrition*. More information about the work may be found at www.shouldertoshoulder.org.

