How are the challenges of disabilities and congenital disorders addressed in the developing world?

How do people live with these disabilities in societies that have limited government support for such needs?
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Physical disabilities in the developing world is a whole different story that in the developed world … from the number of people impacted because of congenital disorders, malnutrition, or dangerous working and living conditions … to the way it impacts their lives because of poor infrastructure and lack of resources.

“We, the ones who are challenged, need to be heard. To be seen not as a disability, but as a person who has, and will continue to bloom. To be seen not only as a handicap, but as a well intact human being.”

-- Robert M. Hensel

THE TRIP

SANTA ROSA DE COPAN

We will spend 2 weeks in Santa Rosa de Copan, a small city that serves as the center of health services for western Honduras. During that time, we will be observing therapists at the Teleton Rehabilitation Center, visiting local health center and hospital, and listening to speakers who work in the health services.

COPAN RUINAS

For the 3rd week, we will travel to Copan Ruinas, a tourist town in the heart of Mayan country, where we will meet up with a physical therapist from Gordon’s Balance Center. Each day, she and a small group of students will visit patients in a different village. We will also meet with local doctors and our therapist will provide them information that they will need to deal with common physical disorders.

IN-COUNTRY

Prior to leaving, students will be required to attend on-campus guest lectures related to the disabilities and rehabilitation in the United States and participate on a field trip to a local rehabilitation clinic. Non-Gordon students will be provided videos of the lectures.

CLASS CONTENT

This course will require students to lead well-directed discussions of the reading material, write personal perspective essays, review essays written by their peers, and summarize their experience in a media project. Students will earn 4 credits for the course.