



**Dr. Brian O'Donovan** is a member of the Hinsdale South High School Class of 1974

Dr. O'Donovan graduated from Loyola University where he received his bachelor's degree and continued to receive his Doctor of Dentistry from Loyola University Dental School. He has been practicing general dentistry for 30 years.

He first considered using his dental profession to help the underprivileged through St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Naperville. He signed up to do volunteer dentistry in Haiti from 2007 to 2010 and he followed that by traveling to Honduras through Crossroads Church in Aurora. He has been to Guatemala ten times and his last trip in 2017 was to Columbia. He sometimes works alone and sometimes with other dentists and physicians doing volunteer dental work in portable clinics through local churches in rural areas where people cannot afford medical procedures.

When he was here at South he served as Class President, was involved in student council, NHS, and the debate team. He also played football for two years and basketball for four years.

### **Career accomplishments**

Dr. O'Donovan began his dental career from Loyola University Dental School in 1982. He worked with the National Health Service Corps for 4 years in small town in Ohio (considered a "dentist shortage area"), then moved back to the Chicago area. He owned and operated his own dental practice in Aurora for 31 years.

Years later, 2007, he had an opportunity to join a dental team going to a small village in Haiti. That trip marked a life changing experience for him. His team performed dental care for the people of the village of Duchity. He returned there 3 more times ('08, '09, '10). The people were desperate for health care of any kind. Long days in hot weather, they treated hundreds of patients every week we visited.

From there, he had more opportunities to travel to Honduras, Guatemala and Colombia, also to provide dental care for the locals. During all his mission trips, he met many families, some of whom he keeps in touch with today. He sponsored 3 college students in Haiti, and one will graduate this fall (2019) with a medical degree. In addition, he is also sponsoring 3 younger children/adults in Guatemala and paid for school tuition, books, etc. In some cases, he paid for their rent, phones and clothing. These children are growing up either without a father or any parents. They live next to a garbage dump. One Guatemala student will begin medical school next year (2019). Dr. O'Donovan's goal is to get them out of that life and into college with a degree of their choice. Dr. O'Donovan will continue to travel to Guatemala annually to visit these children (who he keeps in touch with on a regular basis). Also providing dental care there for years to come. In total Dr. O'Donovan has been involved with 17 mission trips. His future plans consist of a 2 week mission trip on board the Mercy Ship in 2019 (Africa).

Dr. O'Donovan has volunteered (for the last 6 years) at a clinic in Aurora, IL. called "Mission Possible" where they provide free dental care there for anyone who is without a job or insurance.

In 1988 and '89 Dr. O'Donovan was a clinical instructor at Loyola University Dental School.

Dr. O'Donovan's hobbies include fitness, ("Tough Mudder" events), martial arts and car restoration.

### **Dr. O'Donovan's legacy message to the students**

"Pay it Forward"! Even after raising my own children, I can't imagine my life without being involved with students from countries I have been fortunate enough to visit. I am changing their lives and they in turn will change many more lives.