

## **Villanova University Engineers Design Waste Water Treatment and Disposal System**

Do you remember sitting in a college classroom wondering about the relevancy of the subject matter you were supposed to be learning that day? That may have been the case years ago, but today, graduate students and upper classmen at Villanova University team up to work on projects that go beyond theory and into real world situations. Under the guidance of supervising professors, these students from the Civil Engineering Department have donated their time to tackle real-world humanitarian projects that can make a difference in people's lives. Serving at the Crossroads has been a beneficiary of the time and talents offered by these emerging professionals in developing the structural design, specifications and drawings to fit the site and projected needs of our new clinic. The process has been a joyful experience for us.



*Villanova University Engineering students and their faculty advisor (right) design plumbing system for new clinic.*

You can see the students' curiosity, creativity and excitement as they grapple with real world problems. The students research the site, soils, designs and requirements and based upon their latest findings, collaboratively discuss the possibilities over a series of weeks and come forward in a formal presentation to recommend the best options. Relying on classroom theory, the latest departmental research and prior work experiences, they now have a workable solution that will shortly be turned into a series of drawings that will be scrupulously followed by our construction crew. We have learned first hand that these students are willing to seize the opportunity to learn, gain valuable experiences and eager to see their ideas transformed from drawings to the real thing. Several of them had already been to Honduras and they know that their efforts will make a difference in the lives of the people this project will touch.