



## **Profiles in Compassion**

As part of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Children's Place Association is profiling 25 Individuals and Groups whose involvement has been instrumental to the growth and success of this organization. Every other week during 2016 we will spotlight a new Profile in Compassion on our website and through social media.

### **PROFILE IN COMPASSION #9**

**Howard M. Rossman, PhD**

**Vice Chairman, Mesirow Financial Board of Directors**



"After you meet the kids' critical needs, what about their future? What are you going to do to help these kids succeed as adults?"

That's the question Howard Rossman asked back in 2007, shortly after Children's Place Association launched our overseas initiative, Children's Place International.

It may be the single most important question we need to answer as a community here in Chicago and in resource-poor countries.

With Howard's help, Children's Place International developed a plan to address this question...and that led to the launch of our New Ventures program to help scores of children and youth in Haiti prepare for future success.

Today, many of the Haitian youth involved in that program are about to graduate high school and pursue careers and collegiate opportunities – a testament to Howard’s vision.

An advocate for youth, Howard has dedicated the better part of his life promoting the principles and practices of positive youth development.

In addition to his positions at Mesirow Financial, he is the founder of the Civic Leadership Foundation, whose vision is generations of young people educated to become compassionate, entrepreneurial and engaged citizens empowered to take responsibilities for their own lives and for making a difference in the world.

CLF partners with principals, teachers and programs like Children’s Place International to offer a comprehensive curriculum, teacher training and ongoing implementation support to teach young people leadership skills through student-developed and student-led civic projects.

Wherever they work, CLF’s educational programming is preparing underserved youth for college, careers and active citizenship. The end result is that young people are empowered to believe they can accomplish more for themselves and for their communities than they ever thought possible.

Over the last eight years, Howard has not only been a trusted friend, partner and advisor to Children’s Place, he has also provided strong financial support for our international work.

In 2013, Rossman was honored at Children’s Place International’s annual Place the Hope event for his steadfast support and work with the New Ventures program.

Thank you, Howard, for your guidance, generosity and compassion.