2008 Rosamond Larmour Loomis Award for Distinguished Service to Society
Sandra Neville Haggart ‘61

A 1961 graduate of The Bishop’s School and a native of La Jolla, while at Bishop’s Sandra Neville Haggart ‘61 played all sports, and enjoyed all of her classes – except Latin with “scary” Miss Brown. After graduating from Bishop’s Sandy went to Northwestern University where she earned her Bachelor’s degree, and later pursued a teaching career after receiving her graduate degree in Spanish from Northwestern University.

Sandy taught high school, raised a family and did volunteer work, including hospice, until her daughters were grown. Then she began traveling with medical missions offering her services as a translator, first in the Philippines then Guatemala.

Over several trips to Guatemala, Sandy was struck by the country’s beauty and the warmth of its people -- but also by the epidemic of malnutrition among its indigenous population, one of the worst rates in the world.

“I fell in love with Guatemala. My daughter Holly came and fell in love, too. When Holly adopted Sarita, a Guatemalan child, I felt we should give back in a significant way.” Sandy believes that being blessed with so much, she was also given the opportunity, and the obligation, to reach out to others less fortunate.

Sandy’s background with languages and familiarity with other cultures helped prepare her for the project she would be most passionate about – Feed the Dream. She single-handedly created this non-profit organization to improve nutrition and sanitation in remote areas of Guatemala. Starting with 1 village in 2005, Feed the Dream now serves 15 villages and reaches out to 1,000 people every day with a nutrition program for children under five and women of child-bearing age.

Feed the Dream works to train indigenous people to grow food and cook with less wood, important skills for their subsistence life. Feed the Dream also builds bathrooms and plants community gardens, and provides food and vitamins to young children and pregnant women to try to stop the cycle of malnutrition.

In November 2007, Sandy’s accomplishments were recognized by Traditional Home Magazine when she was one of five women in the U.S. honored with the Classic...
Woman Award “for making the world a better place.” Sandy, who resides in Glenview, Illinois, with her “amazingly supportive” husband of 42 years, Gil, returns to Guatemala at least twice a year.

Sandy’s generous spirit and vision have touched many lives. For her commitment to making a difference for the children and mothers in Guatemala and for setting an inspiring example of what one person can accomplish, we are proud to bestow on Sandra Neville Haggart ’61 the Rosamond Larmour Loomis Award for Distinguished Service to Society.