

# EDITORIAL

**Learning while serving. Serving while learning. The maxims of a spiritual life.**

But they are also the cornerstone of the relationship between students and the knowledge school provides them with. Understanding the social utility of what they are studying makes children and young people value their study more, and understand society better. Above all as citizens: serving society from an early age is the best way for all of us to develop an awareness of the world, become active in it, understand that the problems of others affect us, in short to be citizens.

**This perspective has led a number of countries in Europe, the Americas and**

other continents to develop a concept which is as simple as it is revolutionary: Service-Learning. Service-learning is an educational approach which facilitates the personal development of children and young people through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and values. At the same time as it, through social commitment, develops democratic participation, civic engagement and help for others.

**Service-learning also has an important role in the world of health care. The**

health co-operativism inspired by Dr Espriu has since it was first established striven to remove the boundaries between the users of medicine and the structures of the world of health care. To the extent that all those who spontaneously feel themselves on the side of the "patients" and all who feel on the side of the "healers" are both aware that they are jointly responsible for the health system, this will improve the relationship between doctor and patient, and increase the quality of the health care environment within which this relationship develops. Co-operating with one another in the best interests of health is essential. What, then, could be better than to begin this co-operation at school itself?

**Caring for elderly people. Working with a blood bank. Setting up a website for**

an organisation dealing with dependent people. Promoting healthy eating, or oral and dental hygiene... Such initiatives, placed at the heart of young people's education, within their curriculum, open the world of health care up to schools, and open schools up to what is a vital aspect of society and human experience. Illness, the changes that come with age, knowing that we can help heal others, taking care of those who need us... these are fundamental experiences in the learning of academic skills and also values.

**And so | compartir | dedicates the monograph section of this issue to service-**

learning and its impact on the world of health. All with the aim of learning while serving. And serving while learning.