



## Companions in Action

### Service and Outreach: Sharing your Experience

Young people in ALL Jesuit schools around the world participate in service and outreach work. It is a part of the Ignatian DNA, so to speak. It follows from several key principles:

**Going where the need is greatest**

**The Magis – What more can I do?**

**Men and women for and with others**

### Companions in Action opportunities

Companions in Action gives participating schools the chance to share best practice and to investigate what is happening in the wider Ignatian world. Jesuit Missions provides resources, support and global links to make certain that your Companions in Action partnership thrives.

Here are some ideas for getting started sharing with your Companion school:

- Make Sharing about Service a regular part of your partnership weblinks!
- Create a Companions in Action Sharing about Service blog
- Complete an inventory! What service/volunteering/community outreach programmes does your school participate in?
- What Ignatian elements are part of the experience? For example, is there a reflective journal or opportunity for prayer and discernment?
- Invite Speakers! Have any students from your school gone on to choose further study or career paths because of their participation in outreach?
- Check out the Resources! Many resources are available on Jesuit Websites.

### Diversity of experience

Outreach work is different in different places, because local needs vary. Companions in Action provides an opportunity to share best practice. Community outreach is about accompaniment. As brothers and sisters in Christ we seek to work toward the dignity of all.

In Jesuit Schools around the world a wide variety of outreach work takes place. Here are a just a few examples:

- Regular meetings of justice and peace groups to learn about key issues
- Supporting refugees and asylum seekers
- Caring for the elderly

- Volunteering at soup kitchens and shelters for the homeless
- Participating in and creating environmental support initiatives
- Advocacy: writing and emailing legislators to request action on key social justice and environmental issues such as climate change and human rights
- Creating and working on green projects, including recycling, vegetable gardens and tree planting
- Working with those with additional support needs
- Immersion programmes

## Be situation savvy!

As you proceed, look at ways in which needs in your area that are served by your school's outreach programme vary. For example, is your school in an urban or rural area? Does your school liaise with existing programmes or is there a need to develop your own initiatives? What local agencies exist with whom your school can work creatively and productively?

### Going Where the Need is Greatest

- What are the additional areas of need in your context? Do some research.

### The Magis

- What more could your school be doing to support the local, national and international communities. Investigate and develop practical strategies.

### Men and women for and with others

- How can you encourage and provide opportunities for others in your school to get involved? Invite Alumni in to speak about how participation in outreach has influenced them.

## Taking it forward!

- Create a collaborative Ignatian view PowerPoint where both schools provide information about their service and community outreach programmes. Share this with your school communities.
- Make sure that a service/community outreach element is included in your Companions in Action weblinks. This might be an informal update on an individual's actions and work or you may want to prepare a filmed news report that can later be shared on the schools' websites and with the wider Ignatian world. (Always be aware of data protection when filming and sharing information.)
- Develop a joint service project!

## Some resources to investigate for inspiration

<https://www.educatemagis.org/>

<https://ignatiansolidarity.net/>

Going on the websites of Jesuit schools and universities around the world will give an extraordinary insight into the diverse work that is being done globally.