

My name is Jim Hart. I am a retired general physician and I also taught public health at the UMN School of Public Health for 10 years. Our Masters Degree programs used a form of service learning in which our students spent 180 hours with community organizations and then wrote a long report on their experience including recommendations for the organization.

The beauty of this approach to learning is that it connects students with their community and begins to teach them how to move in a community setting. In an era where personal contact is lessening, this is a crucial skill for young people to develop. There is a large body of research (some at the UMN) that supports the value of service learning.

**Jim Hart, MD
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Joe Nathan, PhD, Founder & Director Emeritus