



**NEWTOWN
CONNECTION**
SPORTS | HEALTH | EDUCATION

*Imaginations shared creates collaboration,
Collaboration creates community, and
Community inspires social change*

- Terry Tempest Williams

Highlights From Our First Year

October 2020 - November 2021



We would like to thank all of our supporters, volunteers, and donors who have joined us to help build the Newtown Connection Program. We are so proud of the great momentum and success we have experienced in our first year of operation, and it's all thanks to your efforts. We are excited for our second year and can't wait to see the program continue to grow.

Vince Northfield & Ian Desmond, Co-Founders

We began by partnering with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties (BGCSDC) for Newtown Connection to provide the kids from Newtown a Sports, Health & Education Program, free of charge.



Highlights: Sports and Health



Provided the opportunity for up to 100 kids from the Newtown community to learn the game of baseball and the life skills that come with it, free of charge.



Provided 2,000+ snacks and meals throughout the year to every child at the Newtown Estates Park location.



Held a Newtown Olympics Week for the children during our Summer Program, to enhance their athletic skills and boost their confidence.

Provided a Financial Literacy Class to the kids via Regions Bank.



Highlights: Community Efforts



Supported Sarasota County with their 'Christmas with Santa' event by putting up a mobile Photo Booth and provided Newtown families with festive holiday photos and totes for food donations for their 'Catch the Rainbow' event.



Collected donations for the Newtown community, including:

- o Bicycles
- o Televisions
- o Beds
- o Toys
- o Art Supplies
- o Basketball court refurbishment



Supported BGCSDC youth through donations, including a piano to help one Club member pursue their dreams in music, and a rowing machine to support another Club members' athletic training as part of the Sarasota Rowing Team.



Inaugural Food Drive in tandem with BGCSDC:
Provided food and baseball-related gifts for 100 families.



Highlights: Mentor Development



Via the Center for Healing and Justice Through Sports (CHJS), we funded and trained 70+ staff at BGCSDC, Sarasota Military Academy, and Newtown Connection in Trauma Informed Care.

Via the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), we funded and trained 25+ staff at BGCSDC and Newtown Connection to help coaches become more positive and increase their focus on instilling life lessons through sports.

By partnering with the Sarasota Military Academy, we provided cadets with community service hours working with and mentoring the Newtown Connection kids.



We have helped the children of BGCSDC and the Newtown community be introduced to the game of baseball and develop a passion for America's pastime.

