

Delivering Therapeutic Nature Programs and Live Animals to People in Need

Headquartered in Concord, MA, The Nature Connection is a non-profit organization that delivers monthly nature-assisted programs and live animals to the most vulnerable members of our communities: at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, and elders, including those with dementia and Alzheimer's. We have served assisted living residences, memory care programs, residential schools, and day habilitation programs throughout Greater Boston since 1983.



The Benefits of Nature-Assisted Therapy

- Sensory stimulation
- Improved relationships with peers and caregivers
- Reduced agitation and irritability
- Brightened mood
- Diminished feelings of isolation
- Increased recollection of childhood or adult memories
- Increased attention span
- Respect for nature and the world around them



Varied Seasonal Themes

Each time The Nature Connection arrives for a one-hour session we bring new seasonal materials, new animals and different hands-on activities. We begin by reading a story or a poem about the season, then we offer each participant around the circle a chance to see, smell, or touch the natural plants and therapy animals. Themes range from *Fall Migrations* in September to a *Spring is Rising!* program in March that explores sap, spring blooms and a chance to hold baby chicks.



Live Animals and Natural Materials Offer A Sense of Well-being

We collect fresh seasonal materials and create miniature natural habitats indoors. Materials may include moss, milkweed, fresh honey and herbs, fallen leaves, fragrant pine boughs, seeds and other materials found in the garden, pond, or forest. Our therapy animals complement the habitat, modeling strength, dignity and survival skills. Our animal "staff" include hedgehogs, chickens, cats, dogs, doves, owls, rabbits and more. All of these elements bring joy, connection, and a sense of well-being.



Our Impact - Partner Endorsements

"We have seen our population of adolescent girls blossom and grow with the program....We find that their work with animals and the environment runs parallel to the intensive therapeutic treatment received at our school." - **Jessica Palardy, Clinician | Walden Street School**

"The Nature Connection is a true therapeutic intervention and not merely a way to fill time. As an Alzheimer's professional I can attest to the moments of joy, ability to maintain attention with a sense of purpose, and joy experienced by our population during your program." - **Mary Baum Compass Memory Support Director | Concord Park Assisted Living**

- Programs are offered at a modest fee for service scale based on site location, frequency of visits, and number of participants
- Programs are delivered over one year, monthly or bimonthly
- Our Program Coordinators and dedicated volunteers lead each session including social workers, teachers, and other trained professionals
- Live animals and fresh materials are part of each session

Click here to view our new video or visit
www.nature-connection.org/overview-mission/