

# Connect, Inspire, Grow: Danny's Place Partners with ThinkGive

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Danny's Place Youth Services is a small local nonprofit in Acton, MA. For 15 years, Danny's Place has played a role in Acton and Boxborough by supporting the youth and teens of both communities.

At Danny's Place our tagline is three key words: Connect, Inspire, and Grow. We strive to focus on these three things in all of our work with young people: connecting peers as well as connecting youth with the greater community; providing young people an opportunity to be inspired and to inspire each other; and supporting young people to grow into healthy, happy emerging adults.

We have formed a partnership with ThinkGive because our missions are aligned. Here's how we see ThinkGive's program through our Connect, Inspire, and Grow lens:

## **Connect**

Youth in selected grades (in our case, we are starting with 7th and 8th graders) are invited to meet weekly (and virtually) for six weeks. Students will have the opportunity to connect with one another and create new, meaningful relationships.

## **Inspire**

Each week, ThinkGive will challenge students to focus on a different prompt, or directive for giving, and then individually engage in an action around that prompt. By sharing their stories of how they rose to take action, they will inspire and encourage one another. The power of peer support is strong.

## **Grow**

The ThinkGive program naturally fosters growth. By stepping out of their comfort zones with weekly lessons related to kindness, inclusivity, and social justice, students will broaden their world view, increase their empathy and understanding, and ultimately grow into better community citizens.



A program like ThinkGive is so important in today's world. At a time when social interaction is distant and fleeting, ThinkGive promotes connectedness and inclusion. And in a time where physical distancing and face-coverings are required, acts of kindness go even further than ever before.

### **About Danny's Place**

Danny's Place was founded in 2006 as a drop-in center for teens, created in memory of Danny McCarthy, a local teen who died tragically in a car accident. Over time, Danny's Place shifted away from the drop-in model to a program-centric model, offering programs, workshops, and events on wellness topics and positive youth development, as well as several community service and leadership opportunities. Through these shifts, the core of Danny's Place has remained: to support the youth of Acton and Boxborough, and it accomplishes this by staying true to key values.

