

The mission of the Sloane Stephens Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for youth, through exposure to tennis as a basis for life-long learning and healthy lifestyle choices. Through nationally recognized after school curricula, college preparatory programs and exciting Net Generation tennis, the Sloane Stephens Foundation offers underserved students the additional tools necessary to achieve in and out of the classroom.

**Objectives:**

- Empower children around the world to dream big and achieve, on and off the tennis court.
- Promote positive behaviors and attitudes on school community by modeling the qualities of good character and implementing Positive Behavior Intervention Supports.
- Healthy lifestyles and proper nutrition will be positively promoted by each staff member and volunteer
- Students will develop physical literacy in an organized physical fitness activities in a safe, positive environment
- Cultivate a new generation of tennis players

**Services:**

**Love, Love Compton** is a remarkable embrace of an entire urban school system which provides instructors, nets, racquets, balls for the program. More than 4000 students have participated in our programming, 60 dedicated volunteers have provided 21,000 hours of help and 40 Compton Unified School District (CUSD) teachers have provided coaching for the after-school and summer tennis programs. To date, we have trained 79 teachers to teach tennis at 21 elementary schools and created 27 mini tennis courts on blacktops throughout the school district with our partners at the United States Tennis Association. We have a formal MOU with CUSD to provide tennis services throughout the school district, potentially exposing as many as 25,000 students to the health benefits of tennis.



### **Scholar Tennis at Recess (S.T.A.R.)**

STAR brings recess to life with structured tennis play and development of physical literacy. We partner with elementary schools throughout the school year to teach, model, and empower a sustainable tennis at recess program. The STAR team spends two days each week at each school leading, modeling, and empowering teachers and students to create a fun, inclusive, structured recess for all students. A key focal point of STAR is recognition that students who experience trauma can feel triggered by a lack of structure, clear boundaries and routines (Room 241 team, 2018).

The program goes far beyond a structured physical fitness activity for students. Coaches, using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, connect with students and learn lifetime skills. Students connect with their coaches and learn lifetime skills. One principal who's school participated in 2018 shared "The Sloane Stephens Foundation coaches are rock stars on our campus." We focus on Positive Behavior Intervention Supports while focusing on team-building, self-regulation, self-esteem, positive interpersonal engagement among students, teachers and staff, all contributing to a positive school climate. A recent survey of teachers and administrators indicates huge program success on the playground with the positive impact transferring back into the classroom. One third grade teacher stated, "my students love tennis, they love the instructors and the they love the opportunity to learn an organized sport together on the playground." Another teacher emphasized the difference in student attitudes in the classroom after recess tennis, "My students return to class fulfilled and focused." This program has transformed the recess playground on several CUSD campuses.







### **Summer Tennis Camp and Reading Lab**

More than 75 Compton students participated in our 2018 5-week free summer tennis camp, improving tennis skills, gaining character skills and boosting physical literacy. Learning every day is integral to every child's development. The summer months are critical to continued learning and retaining information learned during the school year. The SSF Summer Reading Readiness Program begins its pilot in summer 2019 and provides daily skill development activities for youth K-grade 3. The SSF Summer Reading Lab offers a suite of tools focused on individualized learning plans for each student.



### **Leadership Academy**

SSF offers a year round program for youth throughout CUSD. Students are assigned a dedicated mentor to help them navigate professionalism, college readiness, career and workforce preparation and life after high school. Students are empowered to develop their leadership skills and to gain real-life experiences through interactions with community leaders from business, government, and civic organizations. Throughout the year students develop essential leadership skills through a service project geared towards team building, conflict resolution, time management, public speaking and goal setting. This program is also designed to support undocumented students in their pursuit of education by increasing access to available resources. We employ our academy leader graduates through college and assist with post-graduate career planning. We are committed to our student leaders and have successfully placed 3 high school graduates in coaching positions at the Sloane Stephens Foundation while they pursue their college degrees. We are proud to share our 100% workforce placement success rate.



### **ACT/SAT Tutoring for Middle Schools**

Early preparation is vital to our students. Continuous early exposure to standardized tests, specifically the SAT/ACT helps students master the strategies needed to perform optimal on the test and in class. As they say in tennis, the process is a marathon, not a sprint. Giving students the opportunity to prepare for testing should be a process, started early and focused on gaining critical reading skills, improved writing abilities and expanded vocabulary, all tools that promote school success. We cultivate a college-focused environment for all participants with a curricula focused on gaining critical reading skills, improved writing abilities and expanded vocabulary, all tools that promote middle and high-school school success. Our pilot for school year 2018-2019 is currently underway with our partners at Jefferson Elementary School.

The Foundation's vision is to:

- Assist in developing a constructive future for young people by providing educational opportunities and encouraging healthy lifestyles, proper nutrition, and participation in physical fitness activities
- Cultivate a new generation of tennis players
- Help empower children around the world, to dream big and achieve, on and off the court.

### **Why is there a need for our program?**

Afterschool programs provide a lifeline for families and communities across the nation, providing a safe and supervised space for kids to engage in creative, educational activities





with caring adults and mentors (After School Alliance, 2012). However, the community we serve Compton California, where the student population is 96% African-American and Latino, after- school programs face severe demand, lack of funding and limited or no student options for activities.

The children served by our free afterschool programs are from economically disadvantaged households (86% Free and Reduced Lunch), are a high needs population and after school programs in our area are least likely to receive the funding required to sustain quality after school care.

Our students need affordable, quality after school programming giving them access to quality programs focused on healthy lifestyles positive behavior intervention support and increased knowledge about exercise and nutrition. Our program success is summed up beautifully by one of our most active Compton teachers, “All of the students in my second grade class play tennis after school each semester! There’s no greater need for the children in Compton than to have an accessible program that reinforces positive engagement while teaching a lifetime skill like tennis.”



Sloane And Compton Students  
Spring 2018 Play Day  
Centennial High School