DEAR FRIENDS

All of us at InnerCity Tennis (ICT) are driven to help youth unleash their full potential on and off the tennis court. We use tennis and our unique curricula to engage kids and help improve their health, enhance their education, develop their character, and build a sense of community with others. Every day, our mission motivates our staff, board, and volunteers. We are so grateful to our generous donors and supportive community for making 2015 one of the best years ever at InnerCity Tennis.

Following our momentum-building in 2014, InnerCity Tennis made significant advancements in 2015:

• Over 4,000 Kids Served. ICT delivered our innovative youth programming in 23 Minneapolis Parks, in 9 Minneapolis schools and at ICT’s tennis center in South Minneapolis. Our Outreach team and volunteers served a racially and ethnically diverse group of kids, representing some of Minneapolis’ most under-resourced youth.

• USTA’s Community Tennis Association of the Year Award. ICT received this award in recognition of our youth programming, our commitment to enhancing our community through tennis, and the great work of our staff and volunteers. See page 15 for a photo of Executive Director, John Wheaton and Education & Outreach Program Director, Song Thao receiving this award from USTA President, Katrina Adams and USTA Foundation Chairman, James Blake.

• USTA’s Outstanding Facility Award. ICT was recognized as one of the outstanding public facilities in the United States. Our Raise the Roof, Close the Gap campaign’s second phase has been completed, including the grand opening of our web-enabled Best Buy 21st Century classroom.

• 2015 Outstanding Community Partner Award from Head Start. Head Start has been a long-time outreach partner of ICT. Together with other not-for-profit youth organizations like Head Start, we are able to fully leverage our resources to benefit Twin Cities youth.

• New Leadership. We promoted John Wheaton to Executive Director, hired Ann Wordelman as Director of Advancement, and promoted Song Thao to Education & Outreach Program Director. The Board is excited about John’s vision and the opportunity to capitalize on his 30+ years of experience in tennis and youth education.

InnerCity Tennis Foundation will continue to develop and deliver programming to under-served youth to improve their health, enhance their education, and build their character, by instilling our 7 core values. Thank you for joining us in delivering our mission and for supporting our ongoing efforts to create access and opportunities for the youth we serve.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Oberrender
Board Chair

MISSION
To develop and unleash the potential of youth, on and off the tennis court, by engaging and serving a supportive community.

CORE VALUES:

- teamwork
- responsibility
- service
- perseverance
- integrity
- respect
- enthusiasm
CLOSING THE GAP
ADDRESSING HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES

HEALTH GAP
35% of Minnesota children are overweight or at risk

EDUCATION GAP
77% of Minneapolis students in poverty are not proficient in reading

SOCIOECONOMIC GAP
63% of Minneapolis students qualify for free or reduced price lunch

ICT IMPROVES HEALTH
TO HELP KIDS EMBRACE HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLES
ICT’s Kidspeed® and tennis programming gets kids moving and having fun while learning valuable life skills, such as teamwork and perseverance.

ICT ENHANCES EDUCATION
TO HELP KIDS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL
ICT uses the ACE2 curriculum and TopSpin3 leadership curriculum to help kids build stronger academic and life skills.

ICT BUILDS CHARACTER & COMMUNITY
TO HELP KIDS GAIN ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY WITHIN A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
ICT provides access by granting over $130,000 in scholarships and free programming each year.

ICT’s Kidspeed® curriculum is designed to begin teaching children key life skills such as teamwork, perseverance and respect, through the fun of physical activity and tennis.

2Academic Creative Engagement (ACE), developed by the United States Tennis Association (USTA), is an out-of-school academic curriculum connected to 21st Century skills, Common Core State and National Standards and the sport of tennis.

3TopSpin is ICT’s service and leadership training curriculum centered around ICT’s 7 core values: Enthusiasm, Integrity, Perseverance, Responsibility, Respect, Service, and Teamwork.
SUMMER TENNIS IN THE PARKS
This program provides each participant with an hour of fundamental tennis lessons, Monday through Friday for 5 weeks. In addition to tennis skills, kids build life skills through our Challenge of the Day. Challenges focus on character curriculum on the road during the school year. In 2015, staff delivered programs at 9 Minneapolis schools, including 2 with programs specifically for children with autism. Several loyal volunteers each week to help deliver programs.

- 5 weeks per year, 23 Minneapolis parks, total of 66 sessions per day, 1 hour each
- Kidspeed, ACE, & Tennis programming
- Scholarships for all in need

SCHOOLS OUTREACH
ICT’s Outreach Staff take our nationally recognized Kidspeed curriculum on the road during the school year. In 2015, staff delivered programs at 9 Minneapolis schools, including 2 with programs specifically for children with autism. Several loyal volunteers each week to help deliver programs.

- 24 weeks per year, 6 sessions per week, 30 - 90 minutes each
- Kidspeed, ACE, & Tennis programming
- Delivered at no charge to participants

450 scholarships granted, valued at $33,700.

53 coaches hired to work at 23 Minneapolis parks.

ICT’s original program, started in 1952.

SUPER SATURDAYS
Our Super Saturdays program allows Twin Cities families to bring their children to engage in fast-paced physical activity and learn tennis fundamentals. Each week, staff deliver the program alongside more than 50 volunteers. We devote our entire 11 court facility to youth from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on over 20 Saturdays between mid-September and mid-April.

- 24 days per year, 4 sessions per day, 1.5 hours each
- Kidspeed, ACE, & Tennis programming
- Delivered at no charge to participants

32 scholarships granted, for a total value of $26,900

TOPSPIN
Court Time, Service and Leadership Training for Middle and High School Students

- 24 weeks per year, 4 sessions per week, 1 - 1.5 hours each
- Tennis and Topspin Leadership programming
- Delivered at no charge to participants

38 scholarships granted, for a total value of $17,600

CITIES ACADEMY
Certified Tennis Instruction for Aspiring Juniors Ages 4-18

- 52 weeks per year, 35 sessions per week, 1 - 2.5 hours each
- Tennis and character building programming
- Scholarships for all in need

94% of students on free and reduced lunch

Serving a diverse student population

35% African and African American

14% Caucasian

18% Asian

27% Hispanic / Latine

3% Other

3% American Indian

2015 ANNUAL REPORT • 7
**RESULTS & IMPACT**

**GETTING KIDS ON A PATHWAY TOWARD SUCCESS**

**REACHING 4,309 YOUTH**

- 32 TapSpin
- 746 Cities Academy
- 799 Schools Outreach
- 965 Summer Parks
- 1,767 Super Saturdays

---

**USTA FOUNDATION SPECIAL REPORT**

**TENNIS PARTICIPATION POSITIVELY INFLUENCES THE LIVES OF U.S. YOUTH ACROSS ALL SOCIOECONOMIC LEVELS.**

**YOUTH WHO PLAY TENNIS...**

- Get better grades: 48%
- Have college aspirations: 81%
- Are better behaved: 73%
- Are more community-minded and well-rounded: 82%

**ARE HEALTHY AND LESS PRONE TO RISKY BEHAVIORS**

- Less binge drinking, cigarette smoking and are less likely to be overweight or at-risk for being overweight

**More than a Sport - Tennis, Education and Health, a 2013 USTAF study comparing the education and health profiles of youth tennis participants with other athletes and non-tennis playing youth.**

---

**IMPROVING HEALTH**

"ICT has played a huge role in promoting good health both physically and mentally for my kids. I wish I could personally say thank you to each donor."

- Anna Hoang
  Parent

---

**ENHANCING EDUCATION**

"The program teaches kids teamwork, good sportsmanship, and most importantly it raises self-esteem."

- Gay Bicking
  Teacher

---

**BUILDING CHARACTER & COMMUNITY**

"This program has a positive impact on my life and all my kids’ lives. It has given my kids empowerment and self respect."

- Seidouba Keita
  Parent
We think our kids deserve to play and learn in a first class facility. So do our customers who use the Tennis Center and whose court fees help support InnerCity Tennis Outreach programs.

In 2015, InnerCity Tennis completed the second phase of renovations to the Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center, including the grand opening of our Best Buy 21st Century Classroom along with improvements to the common areas of the Tennis Center. This work complemented our initial phase, which included replacement of both domes and installation of air conditioning to expand our programming capabilities in the summer. These upgrades have accomplished our goal of transforming our dated tennis facility into a modern, attractive, welcoming hub that is equipped to build up the youth and families of the 21st Century.

Through 2015, our Raise the Roof, Close the Gap campaign has raised $1.4 million toward our goal of $2.0 million. Now that we’ve “raised the roof” at the tennis center, our attention is focused on “closing the gap” for Minneapolis youth. Your support will provide the critical funding needed for expanded programming in the areas of our city that need it most. Our proven programs and curricula are ready to grow along with the youth of our city. Thank you for making “more” possible. We look forward to reporting on our continued advancement.
2015 RAISE THE ROOF, CLOSE THE GAP
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

$15,000+
Skip & Barbara Gage*
Robert & Jane Oberender* U.S. Tennis Association

$5,000–$14,999
Anonymous
Charles & Kathleen Piven
Gary Blauer

$1,000–$4,999
Tolu Adeleye
Ann Cadwallader
Allina Health System

Up to $999
Anonymous
Dan Bane

2015 GENERAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT
THANK YOU!

$15,000+
C. Charles Jackson Foundation
Carl & Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation

$5,000–$14,999
BNY Mellon
CH Robinson
Amherst Foundation

$10,000–$19,999
Anonymous

Up to $999
Anonymous

2015 ANNUAL REPORT • 13
THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
OUR WORK IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!
InnerCity Tennis Foundation develops and unleashes the potential of youth on and off the tennis court by engaging and serving a supportive community.

ICT is a 501c3 non-profit organization

Help us continue to build our programs, so we can reach more kids!