

InnerCityTennis
2005 ANNUAL REPORT

A cause that's bigger than the sport itself.





DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

We're not just playing games here.

What's in a name? In today's society, where communications are fast and the media messages are everywhere, it can mean everything. In an instant, people can put a label on a person, categorize an organization, turn a cause into a cliché.

It would be so easy to pigeonhole InnerCity Tennis as just another youth-oriented sports program. And so wrong. Because we're doing so much more.

In many ways, ICT is a Childhood Development program "disguised" as a sports program. We serve a large number of children ages 3 to 5, causing us to be very tightly focused on the current challenges and gaps in early childhood development.

Our Learnings for Leadership® educational process, for instance, is designed to instill responsibility, respect, teamwork, enthusiasm, integrity, perseverance and service to others.

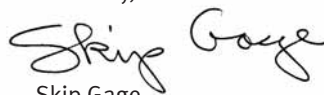
Our more than 100 coach/mentor/tutors (CMT's) go beyond showing kids how to swing a racket. They serve as strong, positive life role models for children as they deliver a variety of skill-and-value development activities for kids from age three to 18.

The proof of our methodology is much more than "It just feels like the right thing to do." The Search Institute and The University of Minnesota have helped us develop metrics through which we actually track our successes.

We are also trying other sports now to attract even more kids. Don't get me wrong. I love the game. If you're reading this, chances are you do too. But the reasons for my strong personal involvement goes well beyond that, to the fundamental difference we're making in the lives of children, even as we teach them the fundamentals of tennis. And it's working.

This is why I'm urging your involvement in this wonderful program. 2005 was one of the best years in ICT's history. It's working. And with your support, it will continue to make a positive difference in kids lives – emotionally, intellectually and physically, as well as athletically – for many, many years to come.

Sincerely,



Skip Gage

Chairman, InnerCity Tennis

THE PROGRAM

**We help develop more than a kid's ability
to swing the racket.**

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What we want a kid to feel most at InnerCity Tennis is not just the leathery grip of a racket handle or the solid “thunk” of a ball on the strings. It’s also the feel of holding a trusted adult’s hand. A growing confidence in the heart. And a cool determination to master not only the skills of a game, but to excel at the skills needed for life.

We make tennis fun and approachable for inner-city kids who might not ordinarily get a chance to play. But the true joy of the ICT program is the way we build the seven key values of responsibility, respect, teamwork, enthusiasm, integrity, perseverance and service.

We take a decidedly different approach to coaching kids, pairing off small groups of children with an elder—a coach/mentor/tutor

or CMT. Barriers fall away. A bond is formed. The kids begin to blossom.

Last year in our Saturday, Summer, Outreach and Special Programs, ICT touched over 4,000 kids’ lives. Over 70% were African-American, Asian, Hispanic and American Indian kids who ordinarily don’t get a chance to walk out on a tennis court. All had a chance to learn and practice both tennis and life skills in a setting that was trusting, positive and fun.

“We teach the basic skills of tennis very well,” says Executive Director Roger Boyer. “But way more important, we teach teamwork, getting along with others, taking turns and following directions. Skills you need for the game, and for school, and work, and life.”



OUR APPROACH

We're working hardest where the needs are the greatest.

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InnerCity Tennis serves all kinds of kids: Kids that live in at-risk neighborhoods. Kids from diverse racial and economic backgrounds. Kids with disabilities. Kids with autism. They all come into the program, get mainstreamed, and get to know one another.

Our “tennis carnival” atmosphere makes learning fun, with multiple, colorful, experience-rich stations that are geared toward action and skill building.

Children learn the backhand, forehand, footwork and something more. They also learn tolerance, team spirit and how to help and encourage one another.

“I see so many impressive things in the InnerCity Tennis program,” says Katherine Streit of the Search Institute, a highly regarded early childhood development foundation.

“To begin with, creating a relationship between kids and caring adults via a shared interest – tennis – is a great methodology. It gives

these children another role model, another trusted adult in their lives.”

“I also like the peer-to-peer aspect, that is, kids teaching and helping other kids. You see kids becoming responsible for one another.”

She also praises ICT’s highly organized way of delivering the program. “You see these children, some of whom come from a very disruptive, chaotic atmosphere at home, and they just thrive within ICT’s structured learning environment. It has a huge impact.”

Streit is helping ICT track and refine the measurements of the program’s impact on kids’ lives: “We’re working on longitudinal studies now. The people at ICT are very, very committed to creating a program that has a powerful, long-term impact.”

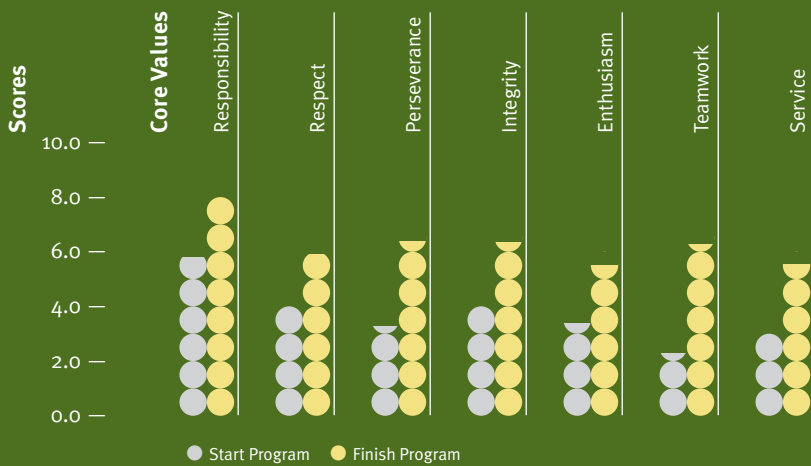
Take a look at the charts on pages six and seven. You can see how ICT has positively impacted the lives of children, using metrics developed by the Search Institute.



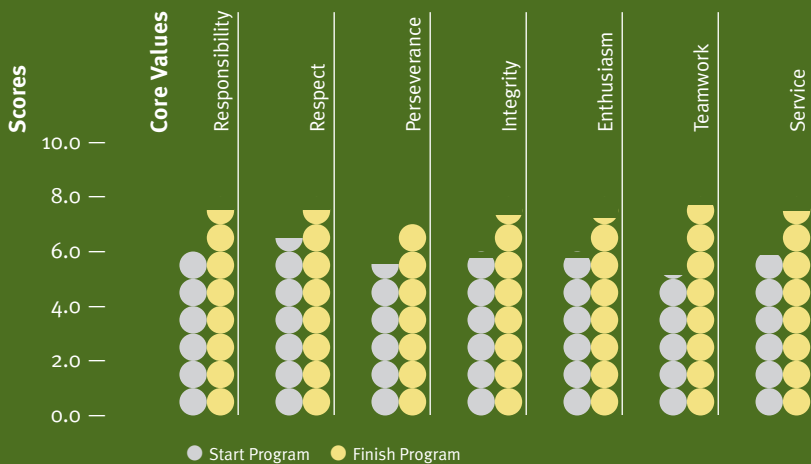
OUR MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

ICT is gathering data that demonstrates the efficacy of the program. Working with the Search Institute, we've developed metrics showing that for the seven core values the program strives to build, the outcomes are very positive. We're now working on longitudinal studies to examine the program's long-term impact.

Head Start A program for boys and girls 4-6 years old.

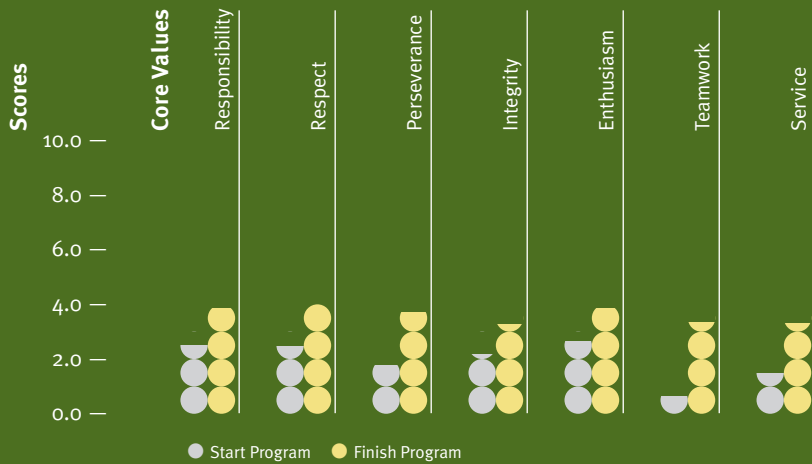


Saturday Program A sample of boys and girls participating in a 2nd year of the program.

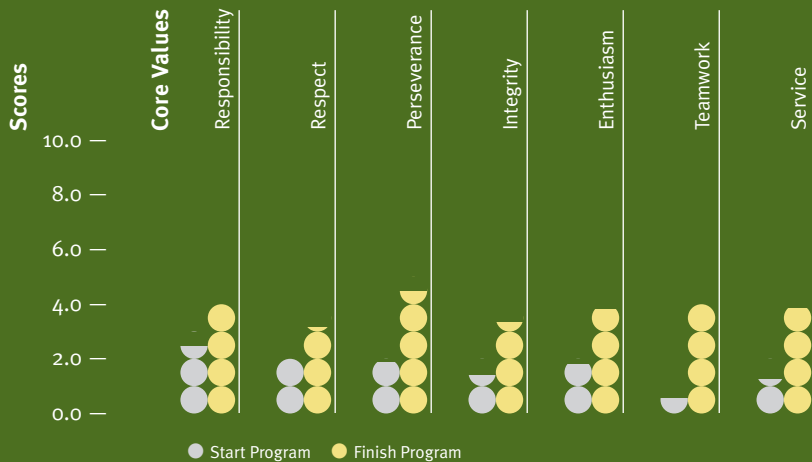




Golden Eagle (American Indian Center) A program for boys and girls 5–9 years old.



North Star Elementary School A program for boys and girls 8–9 years old.





“ICT not only provides physical activity, it also imparts pre-literacy skills through left and right motions. It’s also an excellent inter-generational learning opportunity for both the children and volunteers.”

TODD MITCHELL
Head Start



“ICT has a winning recipe: The program is focused, active, positive, free, drop-in, involves the family, and takes place in a great facility. No wonder it’s really expanding children’s horizons.”

KATHERINE STREIT
The Search Institute

“This program is a great asset to the community. The program’s focus is on building self-confidence.”

ROSEMARIE LUNKA
Parent



“We’ve designed the program so that it makes a powerful, positive, lasting impression on the kids. They leave saying ‘I can do it.’ And, ‘I want to come back!’”

ROGER BOYER
ICT Executive Director



2005 FINANCIALS

Operating to 12-31-05	2005	2004
Income (Support and Revenue)	\$ 381,557	\$ 378,198
Expenses	\$ 352,847	\$ 298,861
Income Less Expenses	\$ 28,710	\$ 79,337
In Kind CMT value	\$ 116,891	\$ 76,133
Value delivered to the community	\$ 378,394	\$ 374,994
 Consolidated Balance Sheet		
Current Assets	\$ 247,085	\$ 243,537
Property and Equipment	\$ 749,574	\$ 796,798
Other Assets	\$ 344,885	\$ 381,127
Total Assets	\$ 1,341,544	\$ 1,421,462
Current Liabilities	\$ 99,493	\$ 109,397
Net Assets	\$ 1,242,051	\$ 1,312,065
Total Assets and Liabilities	\$ 1,341,544	\$ 1,421,462
 Cash Statement		
Cash at beginning of Year	\$ 89,567	\$ 95,175
Cash at end of Year	\$ 143,828	\$ 89,567

All of these numbers add up to love.

(What else would you expect from a tennis program devoted to helping KIDS?)



2005 ICT RESOURCES

The kids of ICT would like to thank the following donors.
Except they're out having fun, playing tennis.

InnerCity Tennis is deeply indebted to the hundreds of individuals, corporations and foundations who have generously given their time, energy and resources towards the achievement of our Mission. Your contributions support and inspire the children we are trying to reach.

ICT Collaborative Partners

The Minneapolis School District coaches and staff serve as program advisors, and also work for the program.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation reserves courts at over 20 parks during the summer, publicizes programs through its citywide newsletters, distributes fliers, and assists with enrollment.

University of Minnesota and Search Institute have collaborated with ICT to ensure quality program development and evaluation.

Senior Tennis Players Club recruits volunteers for ICT and offers financial support.

Head Start, Golden Eagles and North Star provide space in their gyms, recruit participants, encourage participation for children with disabilities, and assist with any language barriers.

Licensed child psychologist provides guidelines for volunteers and staff in dealing with children. She ensures that our methods of building self-esteem are age-appropriate for participants and that volunteers address special needs, positively manage behavioral problems, etc.

Creative Clubhouse and the Phillips Powderhorn Cultural Wellness Center recruit participants and provide facilities to hold programs.

Mount Olivet Church and Imani Family Services transport participants to ICT.

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A Game That Begins With Love!



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InnerCity Tennis