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15-LOVE 
Giving Kids The Advantage

Capital Region Youth
Tennis Foundation

FALL 2007
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Little d Award to Merge with 15-LOVE

In an action intended to foster the mission of both 15-LOVE and the *Little d Award*, it was determined by the Board of Directors of the Capital Region Youth Tennis Foundation (CRYTF) and the founders of the *Little d Award* that the award will become a part of CRYTF and will be designated as a committee of the board.

The *Little d Award* was established in memory of Denise McCoy, a supporter of children's literacy and of 15-LOVE's Book Power Club. (15-LOVE's scholarship is named for Denise as well). Its mission is "to promote and improve children's literacy and the love of reading, particularly in the inner city." This mission is accomplished by honoring an author of a humorous children's book with the award, sponsoring reading activities and contributing to 15-LOVE's Denise McCoy Scholarship Fund and Book Power Club.

"15-LOVE is thrilled to have the *Little d Award* join our overall mission of promoting education in the inner-cities" said Executive Director Amber Marino. "In past years, the *Little d Award's* winning author has spoken to 15-LOVE Book Power Club participants from Arbor Hill and Giffen Elementary Schools. This is a wonderful collaboration of two similarly focused organizations."

The award committee will present the third *Little d Award* to an author in November.

In 2005, Bruce Hale was honored for *Murder, My Tweet* and in 2006, Christopher Paul Curtis was honored for *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*.

PROGRAM NEWS

Tennis Legend Roy Emerson holds clinic for 15-LOVE Excellence Participants

With grace and humor, the most prolific Grand Slam titleholder in the history of the game treated the 15-LOVE Excellence participants to a skills clinic Saturday, August 18, 2007 at the Schuyler Meadows Club.

Said Rumeal Lewis, upon receiving a lesson on serving, "He showed us how to really think about the toss. It helped my serve a lot."



Roy Emerson signs autographs after the clinic at the Schuyler Meadows Club on August 18th.

Emerson also gave a second morning clinic to sponsors and friends, and played in a Pro Am in the afternoon.

Our heartfelt thanks Mr. Emerson and to our sponsors, who provided for a wonderful day. \$1500 was raised at the outing.

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DONOR APPEAL

All Donations Help

No matter how small or large your donation, here is how your contribution makes a difference:

\$2000 – Trip for up to 12 students to visit nearby colleges.

\$1500 – Tee shirts for summer participants

\$1000 – School supplies for up to 50 students.

\$750 – Leadership Weekend cottage fee for 12 students.

\$500 – Prizes for the Art & Essay contest.

\$300 – Food for students to prepare at Leadership Weekend

\$250 – Gas for a month for one van used to pick up kids for practices and events.

\$150 – Software for the College Prep program.

\$50 – One case of tennis balls.

\$25 – Pencils and crayons for use at the Book Power Club for thirdgrade students at inner city schools.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUCCESS CAN BE TOUGH

Typically I write about how I am proud of our kids and our program and how lucky I am to work with 15-LOVE. I've got a slightly different view this time. I'm still proud and still feel blessed to be here, but this can be a difficult job. Forget the 60-hour work weeks and periodically teaching tennis in 90 degree heat and humidity. What's really hard is having to say good bye far too often. At the end of every summer, a few more of our kids head off to college. Sure, I get emails and phone calls, and all of the graduates get together between semesters to catch up and have a little fun (usually bowling and pizza). The best case is when they come back to teach in the program over the summer, but it's never the same. Eventually, they graduate from college and get "real" jobs and then the visits get even less frequent.



This August, in addition to our graduating high school seniors, I said goodbye to Ryan Artis, who has been involved with the program for over 10 years. Ryan received his bachelor's degree at Union College, so I didn't really have to say good bye the first time. Now he is off to Case Western Reserve University Law School in Ohio and so I really had to say good bye. It was difficult.

Ryan started as a participant in the program when he was ten years old. He created our website while he was in high school and continues to update it even now that he's a law student. He was an instructor for us throughout his college career and did such a great job that we began giving him administrative duties. He did such a wonderful job with those that we created the position of Program Director for him. He took hold of the job and did wonderful things. He is the reason that our attendance has continued to increase every year. This past summer, he took over the program on his own while I was on maternity leave. He did an amazing job.

I wanted to give Ryan a little gift to send him on his way and to thank him for his hard work. Among other things, I gave him \$21. My father (an admittedly quirky man) always handed me \$21 (\$20 wasn't quite enough) as I left from a visit home from college. He said it was for gas money (gas was cheaper then), but I think it was his way of making sure I could "afford" to get home again the next time. So, I gave Ryan \$21 for gas and told him that 15-LOVE would always be his home and he is welcome, (and encouraged), to visit any time. Ryan is truly a success story of 15-LOVE. Still, it was tough.

With kind regards,

Amber Marino
Amber Marino

CONGRATULATIONS

Denise McCoy Scholarship Recipients Named

Ann Marie Tran, a first year student at SUNY Buffalo and Ryan Artis, a first year student at Case Western Reserve University Law School were named as the recipients of the Denise McCoy Memorial Scholarships. Tran was a 15-LOVE participant for over ten years and later both volunteered and instructed in the program. Ryan's contributions are set forth in the Executive Director's report, above.

KidsVantage

Stories Written by 15-LOVE Participants

Excellence Program Tours Albany Institute

By: Alexandra G. Age 13

Alexandra is an Excellence Program Participant and a student at Livingston Middle School

With the 15-LOVE program, we went to the Art Institute in Albany. It was really big and nicely decorated. Once you walk in all you see is pictures of famous people and their life story. Once the tour lady came to attend us we walked up the stairs. We went in a room full of pictures. We sat down and she was talking to us about some paintings and how they were painted. She also asked us if we thought the people that painted the pictures went to school or not to be painters. After all that she started talking about what boats were being used in the old days. She told us what rivers they used and after that we did an activity. It was that we had to connect all the rivers together. I had a lot of fun.



15-LOVE Excellence Participants listen to a lecture on the techniques of local artists at the Albany Institute of History and Art

* The Excellence Program participants attended tours at the Albany Institute twice per year.

Tennis Tips and Tricks in Lake George at Burwash International Tennis Show

By: Clinton M. *Clinton is an Excellence Program Participant and a sophomore at Albany High School*



Members of PBI clown around with 15-LOVE Excellence Program Participants

The 15-LOVE trip to Lake George for what we thought was just a tennis program was an amazing experience for me and my fellow 15-LOVE Excellence participants. Basically the program was a tennis show. The show was called the PBI group, also known as the Peter Burwash International Tennis Show. They consider themselves to be the Harlem Globetrotters of tennis. The show included a various assortment of tennis tips and tricks. The show was actually quite exciting. The most exciting part was when Art Santos, a member of the show, hit a tennis ball and it exploded.

Unfortunately the excitement was cut short, due to rainfall, and we returned home eating our cookies and apples. Fortunately on our trip to Flushing Meadows for Arthur Ashe's Kids Day, we got to see an encore performance of the PBI show. I would like to thank Ms. Louise Marwill for allowing us to attend this trip.

15-LOVE Alumni Q&A



Nithin Raikar

Nithin Raikar currently works as process engineer for SABIC Innovative Plastics, formerly GE Plastics, a manufacturer of specialty plastic materials. Nithin is a graduate of the GE Operations Management Leadership Program and currently lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

How many years were you involved in the 15-LOVE program?

NITHIN: I have been involved with the 15-LOVE program for over 12 years since age 13. My mom picked up a flyer at the library and free tennis lessons were too good to be true! It has been extremely fulfilling to be involved as a player, tennis instructor, after-school programs volunteer, and Board member.

What did you study in college?

NITHIN: I obtained a Bachelors and Masters degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester. I also minored in Chemistry and completed a “cluster” in Economics. I had an interest to work in the chemical industry and my degrees have helped prepare me for my career path in manufacturing operations. I would like to get an MBA degree in the future.

Take us back to your days in the 15-LOVE program... give us your most memorable moment.

NITHIN: It's really tough to pick a best moment. Rather, I reflect back on the long summer days playing and coaching all day long. I learned a lot about myself while sharing experiences with a diverse group of coaches and fellow participants. Although tennis is an individual sport, my experience in 15-LOVE was very much team and family oriented.

Did you have a favorite coach?

NITHIN: Nate Simms was my most influential coach and helped get to the next level of playing in college. Nate was a stickler for detail and pushed me to develop a strong acumen for the game – both tennis strategy and stroke techniques. I've always tried to be a student of the game – studying and analyzing the mechanics of every tennis stroke. My tennis coaching style reflects this influence. Nate and I also spent a lot of summers together working as instructors at sites in Albany and Troy, so we spent a lot of hours together. We remain great friends today. (Nate Simms is currently the head women's coach at Skidmore College)

What advice would you give to younger kids currently participating in 15-LOVE?

NITHIN: Tennis is a very rewarding sport and it helped me build discipline and mental focus. Through 15-LOVE, I developed a love for the game and a passion for community service. Over the years, it has been really nice to see participants stay involved in the program as instructors and mentors. My attitude in life has always been to give back as much as I have received. I hope all young participants can reflect upon the values learned from their 15-LOVE experiences and pass that down to others in some form.

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- Nithin Raikar

15-LOVE Names 2007 Participants-of-the-Year

The 15-LOVE “Participants-of-the-Year” award is given to individuals who are involved in the program on a year round basis, demonstrate a positive attitude, work hard and give back to the program. This year’s recipients are Khadijah Peak and Rumeal Lewis.

Khadijah volunteers with the Book Power Club at Giffen Elementary school every Thursday. Rumeal teaches and also helps out in the office putting together power point demonstrations. Congratulations to both!

Summer Program Capped Off with Annual Jamboree



Participants and instructors at the 2007 summer Jamboree in Albany’s Washington Park

It’s a record! 1,821 participants this summer! To put this in perspective, just 5 years ago, the program had 1,600 participants year-round. Albany county still garners the largest attendance, but Schenectady and Troy have been building year after year.

“This wouldn’t be possible without the hard work and dedication of our instructors, most of whom were once participants in the program themselves” said Executive Director Amber Marino. “They enjoy returning to the program to give back to 15-LOVE and to have a little fun. One past participant and instructor, Dashu Jajoor, called the office late in the Spring to tell us that he had graduated from college with an MBA and had a great job lined up in Manhattan that would be starting in September, so he wanted to spend his last “free” summer with 15-LOVE doing something he loves. He didn’t need the money and in fact, he volunteered some of his time, but he wanted to be with us.”

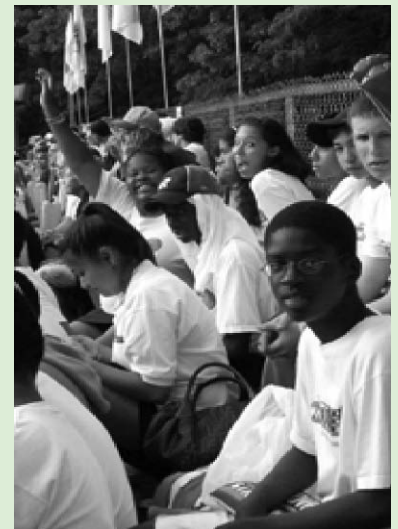
At the end of the record-breaking summer, the annual summer Jamboree was held at Washington Park. Approximately 300 kids were treated to an afternoon of fun, games, prizes and cake. Winners of the art & essay contest were announced, and awards were given from each site for best attitude, attendance and most improved. Each participant received a 15-LOVE t-shirt and bag of school supplies. McGruff the Crime Dog visited the kids during off-court to talk about staying away from drugs and keeping safe. It was a perfect end to a wonderful summer.

★★★ WELCOME! ★★★

15-LOVE is proud to announce the hiring of two former participants for administrative positions. Domingo Montes will serve as Program Director, coordinating sites, lessons, staff and the Excellence Program. Domingo received his BA in Elementary Education from Lincoln University. Lauren Malema will serve as Program Assistant, working in the office on administrative functions, assisting with the Book Power Clubs and College Prep Program and teaching tennis lessons. Lauren received her BA in history at SUNY Potsdam in 2007.

15-LOVE participants Watch and Meet “Pistol Pete Sampras” at NY Buzz match

15-LOVE participants were among a sold out crowd watching tennis great Pete Sampras play for Newport Beach at the World Team Tennis match vs. the NY Buzz in Schenectady’s Central Park in July. After the match, participants met Sampras courtside as he signed autographs and greeted the crowd.



Capital Region Youth Tennis Foundation

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Capital Region Youth
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Fore Love & Money Outing Sets New Fundraising Record

Over \$75,000 was netted at the 15th anniversary of Fore Love & Money, a golf and tennis outing held this past June at the Schuyler Meadows Club. Our sincere thanks to our corporate sponsors for making the event a resounding success: Fenimore Asset Management, Nigro Companies, Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany Valve &



Pictured left to right in the CDPHP foursome: Brian Shanagher, Kevin Breen, Bill Cromie and Bob Blackman

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