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15LOVE 
Giving Kids The Advantage

Capital Region Youth
Tennis Foundation

SPRING 2007

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Third Graders Listen to “Little d” Award Winner Christopher Paul Curtis

Christopher Paul Curtis, a Newberry Award winner and Coretta Scott King Medal recipient, was named the 2007 recipient of the “Little d” Award for his book, *Mr. Chickee’s Funny Money*. The award is given in memory of Denise McCoy, former owner of the Bookmark in Newtown Plaza.



Author Christopher Paul Curtis reads to 15-LOVE participants at Arbor Hill Elementary school.

The third graders in the 15-LOVE Book Power Clubs at both Giffen & Arbor Hill elementary schools, and all other third graders from Arbor Hill were invited to a reading by Mr. Curtis, at the school. The children received a copy of the award-winning book, compliments of the Little d Award Committee. Each year, the Little d Award Committee also makes a donation to the Denise McCoy Memorial Scholarship Fund. Mr. Curtis generously donated his award money to the Scholarship Fund as well.

PROGRAM NEWS

15-LOVE Named NJTL Chapter of The Year by USTA

This past February, the USTA announced that 15-LOVE was one of five National Junior Tennis League organizations Nationwide to receive the 2006 USTA/NJTL Chapter of the Year award. The USTA recognizes chapters and programs at five different budget levels. 15-LOVE was recognized at the \$150-\$499k level.

“We are proud of the work they are doing and are thrilled to be able to recognize them for their hard work and success in using tennis to make a difference in the lives of young people in their community,” said Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA.

15-LOVE was formally recognized at the USTA’s Annual Community Tennis Development Workshop in February, 2007 at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.



Executive Director Amber Marino (center) with USTA First VP Lucy S. Garbin and Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive of Community Tennis, USTA.

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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 - Entry fees for all local tournaments for all Excellence Kids.

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

\$750 - Leadership Weekend trip cottage fee for 12 students.

\$500 - Four portable nets for winter use in school gymnasiums.

\$300 - Books for 3rd graders in the Book Power Club at an inner city school.

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

\$150 - Hotel room for one night for 3 players at a semi-local tournament.

\$50 - One and a half hours of indoor court time.

\$25 - One Hopper for tennis balls.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Great Things are Happening!

We have had an exciting few months since our last newsletter appeared in your mailbox. For the first time in 15-LOVE's history, we received a national award from the United States Tennis Association: NJTL of the Year (among programs in our budget category.) What made this award even more flattering was this was not an award that we applied for and received. Rather, someone saw great things coming from New York's Capital Region and chose to submit a nomination on our behalf. In February, Ryan Artis (Program Director), Herb Shultz (Board President) and I all made the trip to Atlanta for the awards ceremony. It was an exciting time. A video made about 15-LOVE in preparation for receipt of the award can currently be seen on our website.



This past winter, our Excellence Program flourished. The participants worked extremely hard and their efforts have paid off. They participated in Team Tennis leagues in our region, competing against other kids of similar ages and abilities. Two of our teams made it to the league finals and many other coaches and teams commented on their improved quality of play, which could not have happened without the tireless efforts of Program Director Ryan Artis. The group is cohesive and works wonderfully together, constantly pushing one another to do better. That kind of dynamic could not happen without strong leadership. Many thanks to Ryan for a phenomenal job & congrats to the kids on much deserved success!

"Come out and see the Program in action."

With that said, it is with mixed emotions that we announce that Ryan will be leaving us at the end of this summer – moving on to law school at Case Western Reserve University. He will be greatly missed, but this is a wonderful opportunity for him and we are proud of his hard work and accomplishments.

As our Summer Program kicks-off, I encourage you come out and see the program in action. (The schedule is posted on our website or call the office for times / locations.) Classes begin June 25 and run through August 8, culminating with our Jamboree on August 9 at Washington Park in Albany. Stop by any time to check out the classes: both the tennis lessons and the off-court (life-skills) instruction. Talk with the instructors at the end of the lessons and ask any questions you might have – most of them have come up through the program and have a wonderful perspective on what we're all about.

Thank you all for your support – in whatever way it may have come throughout the years. It is truly appreciated. Have a wonderful summer!

With kind regards,

Amber Marino

Amber Marino

Congratulations.....

Amber Marino Named USTA Eastern Tennis Women of the Year

Executive Director Amber Marino was named the USTA / Eastern Section's Tennis Woman of the Year for 2006. The award is given to a female USTA/Eastern volunteer in recognition of long and outstanding service to tennis in the section. Ms. Marino was officially recognized in January 2007 at the Crowne Plaza in Westchester, NY.

College Prep Program Tours Skidmore College

Program Director Ryan Artis spoke with 15-LOVE College Prep Program participants (and siblings) Alexandra and James Guerrero after they and fifteen other students took a trip to Saratoga Springs to visit Skidmore College. The trip was part of a series of events aimed at encouraging kids to attend college and focus on their education.

The trip started at the admissions office with a tour of the campus given by Nate Simms, Skidmore Men's Tennis Team member and former 15-LOVE coach. "I was drawn to the campus right away" said James. "It was big and it looked like a fun place to go to school." The tour included a walk through the dorms, student center, athletic facilities, and the academic buildings.

"At the end of the tour, we met with the tennis team for an on-court tennis clinic" said Alexandra. "I improved from the clinic. The guys from the team were fun and funny... they taught us strategies that we can use."

The clinic lasted almost two hours. The trip concluded with dinner in Skidmore's recently renovated cafeteria with the members of the tennis team. James was shocked at the look of the cafeteria, which had just been remodeled. He said, "It looked like a museum. I had pizza, chicken and cookies... it was all really good."

The trip was a great time both for the 15-LOVE participants and the players of the Skidmore College Men's Tennis team. Alexandra summarized the experience by saying, "It's (Skidmore) a different place from where I live, and being on that type of campus looks like it would be a lot of fun."



15-LOVE College Prep participants have lunch with the Skidmore Men's Tennis team.



Khadijah.P., a 15-LOVE College Prep participant, and a Skidmore player give each other a "high-five".

Excellence Program Team Tennis Update...

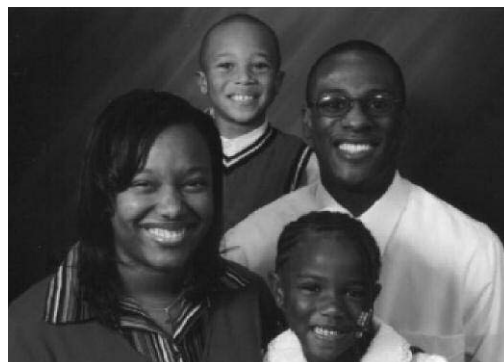
BY: CLINTON MATHAI, EXCELLENCE
PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Clinton Mathai is a freshman at Albany High School and the #2 player for the Varsity Tennis Team. He is also a member of 15-LOVE's Excellence Program.

This year, the 15-LOVE Excellence Program had a productive indoor tennis season. Everyone played well and two of our four teams (12's and 14's) made it to the championship match for their divisions. Everyone is ready to come back strong for next year's indoor season.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to playing tennis tournaments this summer. Our biggest tournament of the year, the New England Tennis Association Championships in New Haven, Connecticut is coming up at the end of June. This tournament is the best time of the year for most of us and is always fun no matter how we do on the tennis court.

15-LOVE Alumni Q&A



Richard Moffatt

Richard Moffatt is currently a business analyst for Avaya Inc, a global leader in business communications applications, systems and services. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife Lauren, and two children Andrew and Marissa (pictured above.) He recently chatted with 15-LOVE Program Director Ryan Artis about his experience as a 15-LOVE participant while growing up in Albany's South End....

How many years have you been involved in the program?

RICHARD: I was involved with 15-LOVE for 6 years. I began in 1995 learning how to play tennis at the Boys & Girls Clubs Indoor Basketball Court. I also worked for the program as a Site Assistant and Site Director for 4 years.

What did you study in college?

RICHARD: While at the College of Saint Rose I chose to pursue a degree in Accounting.

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

RICHARD: I would have to say my most memorable moment while at 15-LOVE was the first time 15-LOVE took me out of my project neighborhood to play tennis at an official indoor tennis complex/club: Capital Region Tennis and Fitness. (Back then it was known as Southwoods).

Did you have a favorite coach?

RICHARD: I would have to say my favorite coach was Mark Dalzell for teaching me the serve, which, as everyone knew, my game was centered around. Another coach I would like to mention is Nate Simms who taught me how to be consistent in other areas of the game so that I did not have to rely so heavily on my serve in order to succeed on the court.

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

RICHARD: I would tell them to use all the tools 15- LOVE provides them, both on and off the court, in order to learn more about life outside of tennis. If they do this they can pursue their other dreams outside of tennis.

“...Use all of the tools that 15-LOVE provides...to learn more about life”

— Richard Moffatt

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15-LOVE and USTA Sponsor New Middle School Tennis League



This past spring, 15-LOVE and the USTA sponsored a middle school tennis program at the Myers Middle School Tennis Complex in Albany. The league was aimed both at introducing beginners to the game of tennis and also developing the skills of intermediate and advanced players. Most students were able to sustain a consistent rally by their second practice and all students knew the rules of match-play by the end of the session. The program was put together just in time for Spring and classes have been growing.

The current session was only open to grades 6 – 8, but the next session, which is in the works for 8 weeks in Fall 2007, will expand the program to include more grades. The program is free of charge and equipment is provided, if needed. More information can be found at the end of August on our website: www.15love.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11	Fore Love & Money Golf and Tennis Outing
June 16-22	Instructor Training
June 25-Aug 8	Summer Program
June 30th Weekend	Excellence Tournament at Yale University
August 9	Jamboree at Washington Park (Volunteers Needed!)

Computer Center for College Prep Program Fully Operational



High school students Rumeal L. and Jake K. review SAT test questions using 15-LOVE's new College Prep's Computer Center.

The College Prep Program's Computer Center, which was funded by grants from the Ronald McDonald House Charities, Citizens Bank and the USTA's Tennis & Education Foundation is now fully operational. The Center's opening was kicked off officially at an Open House on Wednesday, December 13, 2006. The Center includes five new Dell computers, a large screen projector and a library of books, cd's, and other resources used in the college search process. Participants have used the Computer Center to research specific colleges and universities, learn about the financial aid process, write college essays and submit college applications online.

Book Power Club Ends Year With Field Trip

The Book Power Club ended their year with a trip on May 9th to the Little Bookhouse in Stuyvesant Plaza for a book reading and to select a book that was purchased for them by 15-LOVE. Then it was off to LaSerre restaurant on Green Street in downtown Albany where board member Anne Trimble treated the children and the volunteers to dinner and dessert. It was a wonderful year-end event. Thank you Anne Trimble and the Little Bookhouse.



Book Power Club students and volunteers enjoy dinner at LaSerre restaurant.

Capital Region Youth Tennis Foundation

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Year End Campaign Sets Record Numbers

Last December, as daylight faded and the days began to dim, the future of 15-LOVE nonetheless remained illuminated as the 2006 Year-End campaign brought in record numbers of donors and dollars. Over 80 donors contributed over \$75,000. The number of donors was nearly doubled from 2006 and the amount of the donations increased over 125%.

The success of the Year-End appeal, combined with a record setting year for the 2006 Fore Love & Money Golf and Tennis outing (\$71,000 net proceeds) has enabled 15-LOVE to enjoy sound financial footing. We look to continue such success and extend our heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to the program in so many ways.

MONDAY JUNE 11 WE CELEBRATE THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF

FORE LOVE & MONEY

GOLF AND TENNIS OUTING
SCHUYLER MEADOWS CLUB LOUDONVILLE, NY

LUNCH, TENNIS, GOLF, DINNER AND MORE....
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS!