



Danbury Grassroots Tennis

Changing the lives of our city's youth through tennis

BREAK • POINT

May 2009

Danbury Grassroots Tennis is a tax exempt Inner City Junior Tennis Program working together with the Danbury Housing Authority, the Danbury Public School System and After School Programs, the Danbury Hospital, the USTA, and citizens concerned with the challenges faced by children in the Danbury area.

1st ANNUAL 'GOLFING FOR GRASSROOTS' FUNDRAISER RECAP

On October 2, 2008 48 men gathered at the Richter Park Golf course to participate in the 1st Annual 'Golfing for Grassroots' Fundraiser. The event was a tremendous success and could not have happened without all of the players, generous sponsors, volunteers, and Richter Park. Walter Beatty and Carl Bailey spent countless hours putting the event together and are already planning the 2009 event! Please Save the Date: Wednesday, September 23!

WINTER TENNIS AT RAC

This winter, seven DGT kids were able to play tennis from September through May due to the generosity of our sponsors, Andy Bodner, and Ridgefield Athletic Club. The seven kids were chosen based on grades, behavior, commitment, and attendance during the summer and were selected to play twice a week throughout the winter. They all improved significantly and we cannot thank all the pros at RAC enough for their support and hard work with our players.

We would also like to thank Cathy Perry, Pam Higgins, and Keiko Inouye for volunteering their time to drive some of our kids to and from RAC. Our kids were extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to play year round and we hope to be able to provide year round tennis again this winter.

EDUCATION & AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

DGT joined forces with Danbury Youth Services' T.A.R.G.E.T. program this winter. T.A.R.G.E.T. is an after school program on site at Laurel Gardens designed to help kids with homework, making healthier choices, improving communication and team building skills, and substance abuse prevention. We were very fortunate to have Sydnye Cohen and members from Brookfield High School's National Honor Society volunteer their time and energy to work with the children in T.A.R.G.E.T. They were all very patient and a pleasure to work with. They even put together a small Christmas party for the kids!

Throughout the school year Lynn Radford and Georgia Carrington became our resident tutors! Both Lynn

& Georgia are former teachers so they were the perfect match for the children struggling with their classes and grades. I simply cannot express the difference they made. As a result of Lynn's tutoring, two of our older kids were eligible to play high school tennis this year.

I can't mention education with out thanking Anne Beatty for her assistance in linking DGT with numerous principals, social workers, and teachers throughout Danbury Public Schools. As education is DGT's number one goal, it is very important for us to maintain a relationship with schools and teachers. Thanks to Anne we can now communicate directly with teachers, principals and social workers to further assist the kid's in our program.

Due to the tireless efforts of our tutors, volunteers, and school system our participants are beginning to understand how essential (and stimulating) education and school can be!

PE CLASSES & EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAMS

DGT visited the PE Classes in the elementary schools again this year, teaching tennis to thousands of children in the school system. We were once again warmly received and were pleased to see how many kids said how much they love tennis! Fran Evans and her staff of PE teachers were incredibly supportive and enthusiastic and it will be sad to see Fran retire this year.

For the first time this year, DGT worked with Marlene Ho-Yen and the Extended Learning Programs (ELP) in five schools. ELP is an after school program which incorporates both homework help sessions and exercise/ fitness sessions. We would like to thank Courtney Radford and Nicky Dalton for all of their help with both the PE Classes and ELP.

LOCAL AGENCIES SUPPORTING DGT

In our quest to find more children throughout the city that would benefit from our program, we reached out to various agencies and programs for help. In addition to the Housing Authority, PE classes and the ELP, Danbury Child Advocacy Center, TBICO, Family & Children's Aid, Y.M.C.A., and the Good Friend Mentoring Program were all very supportive in referring children to DGT.

Lauren Dalton is currently a member of the board of the Coalition for Healthier Kids (CHK) at the Danbury

Hospital, whose mission is to prevent and eradicate childhood obesity, DGT's second goal. Several members of CHK, including Danbury Hospital's Andrea Rynn, Dr. Arguello and Nancy Salem and Registered Dietician and Nutrition Consultant for Danbury public Schools, Robin Quay, have been extremely supportive of DGT and its goals. They have referred many kids who will join DGT this spring.

year! They have both worked very hard on and off the court to achieve that goal. Unfortunately, on the day of his first match, Alan tore a tendon in his knee and needs surgery. He was named Captain and still travels with the team, but is unable to play until the summer.



Some DGT players and Emily Vulcano, ready for practice

SPRING & SUMMER PREVIEW

DGT has made some important and significant changes as of January 1, 2009. To improve organization and efficiency we will only be accepting 60 players this year. Every parent/guardian and participant is required to attend a mandatory parent meeting and sign our Player Agreement Packet before joining DGT. The Player Agreement Packet includes our rules, grade/GPA requirements, point penalty system, attendance and behavior policies, and parent/guardian and participant requirements. The meetings could not have run as smoothly as they did without our volunteer translator, Marilia Chagas!

SPRING SESSION:

May 11- June 18
 Western CT State University Courts (May 11-21)
 Rogers Park Tennis Courts (May 26- June 18)
 Monday- Thursday 4-6pm

SUMMER SESSION:

June 29- August 2
 Rogers Park Tennis Courts
 Monday- Friday 11-5pm

Thanks again to both W.C.S.U. and the Danbury Park & Recreation Department for allowing us to use their facilities free of charge!

DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

We would like to congratulate Alan and Heather Webb for making the Varsity High School Tennis teams this

UPCOMING EVENTS/SAVE THE DATE

July 18, 2009

The Third annual 'Grow with Tennis' Women's Doubles Tournament at Ridgefield Athletic Club
 9:30-1:00pm

August 16, 2009

Ridgewood Country Club Fundraiser
 Details to follow

September 23, 2009

The Second Annual 'Golfing for Grassroots' Fundraiser at Richter Park Golf Course
 11:45 Lunch
 1:00 Shotgun Start
 Dinner to follow

For more information call: Lauren (203) 544-1226

ONE OF A KIND DONATION BINS

Local wood worker and tennis enthusiast, David Motill, has designed his very own donation hopper/bin for DGT! It looks incredible and will be in front of the RAC desk in the next week. Please feel free to donate used racquets, lightly used clothing, grips, etc. Thank you David for all of your time, energy, and innovation!

DGT BOARD OF DIRECTORS/VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Bailey, President
 Walter Beatty, Vice President
 Art Goldblatt, Treasurer/Secretary
 Lauren Dalton, Director
 Alex Aitchison, Kevin Barry, Georgia Carrington, Jackie Elam, Pam Higgins, Dr. David Pazer, Cathy Perry, Liz Preville, Mark Rader, Lynn Radford, Carolyn Sistrunk, Becky Strominger

Thanks again to everyone who has been involved with DGT; we look forward to seeing you soon. Stop by and watch our kids in action on the court!

Carl Bailey
 President

Lauren Dalton
 Director