



# DANBURY GRASSROOTS TENNIS & ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 2011

DGT & EP is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt  
Inner City Tennis & Tutoring Program

## NEW NAME, LOGO, OFFICE, & WEBSITE!

We are extremely excited to announce our new name, new logo, new website, and new office! We are now officially called: Danbury Grassroots Tennis & Enrichment Program! As our program encompasses so much more than just tennis, we felt it necessary to add "Enrichment Program" to our name to better demonstrate what we are all about. Obviously tennis will remain an integral part of the program, as will nutrition and exercise, but the education, tutoring, & enrichment components are vital. We have been working very hard painting, cleaning, renovating, and decorating our new office space (196 Main Street) and officially opened our doors on July 11. Our Summer Enrichment Program ran for five weeks through the summer and our kids worked on their summer reading and other work.

We will kick off fall/winter tutoring on September 12<sup>th</sup> and our children will receive after school help from 2:30- 6:00pm Monday to Thursday. We will be able to serve our children and their families on a more frequent basis and in a more efficient manner. Each child will have their own cubby which will include a folder with their DRA reading level, extra work needed, and notes from teachers regarding supplemental school work. All of our kids will continue to be required to do 30 minutes of extra reading as well as additional math work. We have some exciting things planned such as nutritional counseling, cooking lessons, indoor fitness, and visits to the library which is half a block away. Lynn, Yoko, JoAnn Kish and our kids will also continue to take care of our garden plot filled with tomatoes, melon, basil, and much more, at the Hispanic Center. We have revamped our website and are very happy with the new layout. Please visit us at: [www.danburygrassrootstennis.org](http://www.danburygrassrootstennis.org)

## SPRING & SUMMER TENNIS

Our kids worked hard throughout the spring and summer on the courts, playing everyday. Natalie Bruno, Soichi Hirokawa, & Juan Ocampos did an incredible job improving the games and health of all of all DGT players. Eight kids participated in the 14 & under Junior USTA league and they finished 4 out of 8 teams. We also had a couple of friendly matches against Norwalk Grassroots, multiple visits from Barbara Potter, and each child completed a timed mile practice run every week to prepare for the September 10<sup>th</sup> YMCA 1 Mile Fun Run Race. Four kids will be running the 10k with Lauren, Jason and Soichi which is amazing! Our Tournament Training group completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 'Boot Camp', which included two days of tennis from 8am-5pm, double fitness sessions each day, a healthy BBQ, and a swim in the lake!



SPOTLIGHT ON:



### Aishia Bello

- 2011 DGT & EP and Danbury H.S. grad
- Currently attending Southern CT State University

## LYNN RADFORD- Director of Tutoring & Enrichment

Due to the recent and exciting growth of the program, Lynn Radford has been named Director of Tutoring & Enrichment! In addition to the thousands of hours she has volunteered through the years, Lynn is a former teacher with many years of experience. Lynn will coordinate volunteers, communicate with teachers & schools, organize one on one meetings with parents, develop a nutrition and cooking program utilizing office facilities, work with Lauren on all levels in terms of report cards, goal setting, and evaluations, follow up on all college and career guidance and planning, and much more! She will be a tremendous asset to DGT & EP!

## HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

DGT & EP had five participants play high school tennis this past spring: four played at DHS and one at Wooster High School. They all practiced hard and had successful and rewarding seasons.

## WINDRIDGE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Devante Payton and Edwin Amigon received full scholarships for two weeks to the Windridge Camp in Vermont. They played tennis, soccer, enjoyed arts and crafts, and made new friends. We are incredibly grateful to Windridge's owner Ted Hoehn for his generosity and to Walter Beatty for making it happen again!



## WILSON SPONSORSHIP

Edwin Amigon was chosen to receive the Wilson Sponsorship this year, organized by Maurice Sanchez and Sarah Maynard of Wilson. He was very lucky and happy to receive 2 brand new racquets and a racquet bag! His game will improve a great deal. Thank you!

## FUNDRAISERS

### *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Paddle Tennis Pro-Am Fundraiser (February 27, 2011)*

Maurice Sanchez organized this incredible event that will become an annual event for DGT & EP. Eight of the country's top ranked players competed with local paddle players for an afternoon of paddle, food, and laughs. The level of play was spectacular and we look forward to next year's event. Thank you Maurice!

### *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Grow with Tennis Women's Tennis Tournament at the Ridgefield Tennis Club (July 8, 2011)*

In spite of torrential rain and thunder, 25 out of the 28 players and numerous guests attended the rained out event indoors! They were such good sports about it and played a ping pong tournament, ate, drank, and bid on the silent auction items. A special thank you to our generous participants, sponsors, auction donors, fundraising committee, and RTC. We couldn't have done it without you!

### **FIELD TRIPS**

- **The U.S. Open**- George Landegger & the Howie's gave us 4 courtside tickets to see Serena, Tsonga, Fish, Schiavone, & Ivanovic in action. We were so close we could almost touch the players! We can't thank you enough for your incredible generosity!
- **The Ridgefield Playhouse**- Allison Stockel, Suzie Scanlon, Max Scanlon, and Sami Stockel hosted 14 of our kids for dinner, tour of the Playhouse, pick up basketball, and live music!
- **Danbury Farmer's Market at Kennedy Park**
- **U.S. Open Qualifying Rounds**- Lauren, Lynn & Chris Radford took 12 kids down to Day 1 of the Qualifying Round of the US Open. They watched tennis all day and saw players like Ivanovic, Soderling, and Warwinka practice!

### **IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL**

Devante Payton will be attending Immaculate High School this fall on a partial scholarship from DGT & EP and Pathways Academy. We are all very excited about the opportunity Devante has been given to further develop his academic career!

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

**SEPT 19**- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golfing for Grassroots at Ridgewood Country Club

**SEPT 10**- Boughton St. YMCA 10K/ 1 Mile Kid's Race

### **NEW OFFICE: 196 Main Street**



### **APPRECIATION BOX**

- ✓ Joseph DaSilva (our landlord) & his staff, have been incredibly kind and generous in regards to our rent rate, repairs, & providing the perfect space for our expansion!
- ✓ Tal Nizan of Ridgefield for donating not only hours of his time on and off court, but also for donating 20 plus boxes of books for the new office!
- ✓ ALL of our volunteer tutors and on court volunteers for their tireless energy and support!!
- ✓ Matt & Lisa from Milo's Methods in Westport who worked our kids out an hour a week through the spring and summer! Their workouts are incredible!
- ✓ Amy & Derek from HVCasa for visiting our courts every week for six weeks to talk about the dangers of smoking and peer pressure. We all learned a lot!

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Carl Bailey, President  
Walter Beatty, Vice President  
Art Goldblatt, Treasurer/Secretary  
Lauren Dalton, Director  
Lynn Radford, Director of Tutoring & Enrichment

Alex Aitchison, Sandra Arconti Atanasoff, Georgia Carrington, Pam Higgins, Paul Masters, Dr. David Pazer, Cathy Perry, Liz Preville, Maurice Sanchez, Mike Smith, Becky Strominger

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

*Carl F. Bailey*  
Carl Bailey, President

*Lauren Dalton*  
Lauren Dalton, Director

