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Capital Region Youth Tennis Foundation



2020 annual report





FROM THE board president

 In 1990, when 15-LOVE was founded, we had no idea what the organization might accomplish by the year 2020. In fact, we never thought (or even dreamed) about that future prospect. We were instead just focused on getting through that first summer of programming.

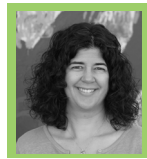
We were extremely fortunate to have Arthur Ashe join us in launching our newly formed venture. Arthur helped us get the ball rolling (or, in our case, bouncing). We could not have had a better person than Arthur to support/advocate/endorse our endeavor. Arthur knew, from first hand experience, what potential impact a program like 15-LOVE might have on the youth of the Capital Region. Arthur not only came from the public courts of Richmond, VA himself, but he subsequently helped launch programs similar to 15-LOVE in many other cities, including NYC, Atlanta, Kansas City, LA, and Newark, NJ.

While the past 30+ years have had many challenges, as every not-for-profit will experience, we have been blessed by several important ingredients:

 Our original mission of reaching out in a loving, caring way to the youth of the Capital Region, especially in the inner cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy, has not changed. We have stayed true to our mission, which has kept us focused.

 Arthur’s personal involvement and support, including visiting Albany during the last 3 years of his life, was invaluable.


FROM THE executive director


 Dear Friends,
We all know 2020 will be emblazoned in our lifelong memories. It was scary. It was difficult. It has forever changed our way of life and there will be after effects for many years to come.


My hope is that the children and families we have the privilege of working with will remember the little slice of normalcy we tried to create for them. I hope they will remember that we found ways for them to connect with each other, ways to keep active, and ways to try new things. I hope they remember that in the toughest of times, 15-LOVE was there for them. That’s always true, but it was never more true than in 2020.

As you may know, during the shut-down in the Spring, our office sustained a flood that caused about \$30,000 of damage. Had we been in the office, maybe it would have been avoided, but it was April, and we weren’t supposed to be here. The school supplies we stored in the basement to help our kids be successful were floating, and we learned that unopened cans of tennis balls can get water inside of them. It was heart-wrenching, and difficult. The kids’ cherished space to relax and be at home was ruined. But, it also created space for us to turn it into a classroom, which effectively doubled the capacity for educational programs, since kids had to be spaced 6 feet apart. I would estimate that it allowed us to serve an additional 100 students last summer and school year, so maybe it is exactly what we needed in 2020.

We held a successful summer program, with only 4 kids on each tennis court, and 12 hour days to make up for reduced capacity in each class. Our instructors had to pick up every ball after each activity, as kids couldn’t touch them (we didn’t know then how COVID was transmitted). We provided a free

 Having a talented staff, headed by Amber Marino as our Executive Director, and a dedicated board of directors has made all the difference. There is no substitute for good people, who work together toward a common goal!

 Importantly, the vast majority of our instructors are products of our program. They act as positive role models for the younger participants to emulate. We have an operating model where our instructors coach and teach the younger kids, who then develop into the next generation of instructors. This model is self-perpetuating and is the essence of 15-LOVE’s success.

 Having outstanding community support, with many of our supporters being with us since June 6, 1990 when Arthur first came to speak at the Americana Inn (now The Desmond), has provided the necessary support to put us on sound financial footing.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership with us over the past 30+ years. Our graduates provide proof positive that this partnership is working. We plan to continue making a meaningful difference in our communities and we welcome your ongoing support. Thank you!

God Bless,
Herb Shultz
*Past President, Board of Directors**

*I am thrilled that Margaret Malicki is now President of 15-LOVE. We are in good hands with Margaret’s capable leadership.

racket for every child to keep since they couldn’t borrow and share our rackets as they normally would. We had to put all of our registration online, which was difficult for many of our families without reliable internet or computers. In the end, all of the extra work and worry was worth it. The kids had a great time. Families were immensely grateful and flexible. 2020 was tough, and tiring, but more than any of that, it reaffirmed the impact we have on kids’ lives and the need for our program in the community.

At the end of the summer, our Alumni Committee, led by Ryan Artis, created an amazing tennis court chalk mural they called “10 Blocks.” The picture on the cover of this report shows the amazing results of the kids’ being asked to use one of the 10 blocks of the tennis court as a canvas to share their thoughts about diversity, equity and inclusion. The kids were given very little direction, and the result shows the beautiful diversity and unity of our program. I couldn’t love this more, and it is possibly one of my favorite projects 15-LOVE has ever been involved with.

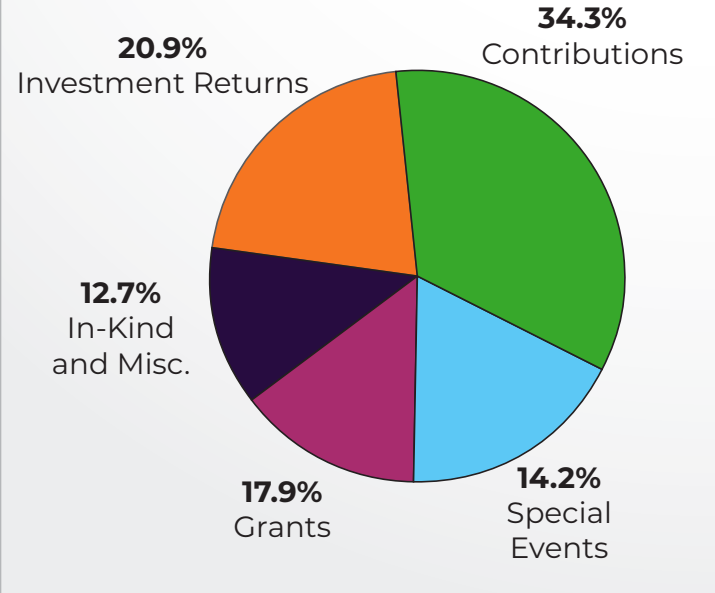
We are lucky that tennis was deemed “safe” in May, but even before that, we found ways to connect with kids and families in meaningful ways. Thank you for your support and for helping to give us the opportunity to continue our work in the community. Had the organization not been strong pre-pandemic, or been lacking in solid leadership from our Board, or missing volunteers to help make it happen, none of that would have been possible. We would not have made it through a pandemic and a flood. But, we did. Because of all of you. And our community is stronger for it. Thank you for the opportunity.

With great appreciation,
Amber Marino
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 2020

Assets	
Cash	\$273,449
Investments	\$1,445,757
Receivables	\$23,080
Prepaid Expenses	\$8,885
Current Assets	<u>\$1,751,171</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>\$343,527</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$2,094,698</u>
Liabilities	\$15,504
Net Assets	<u>\$2,079,194</u>
Total Liabilites and Net Assets	<u>\$2,094,698</u>

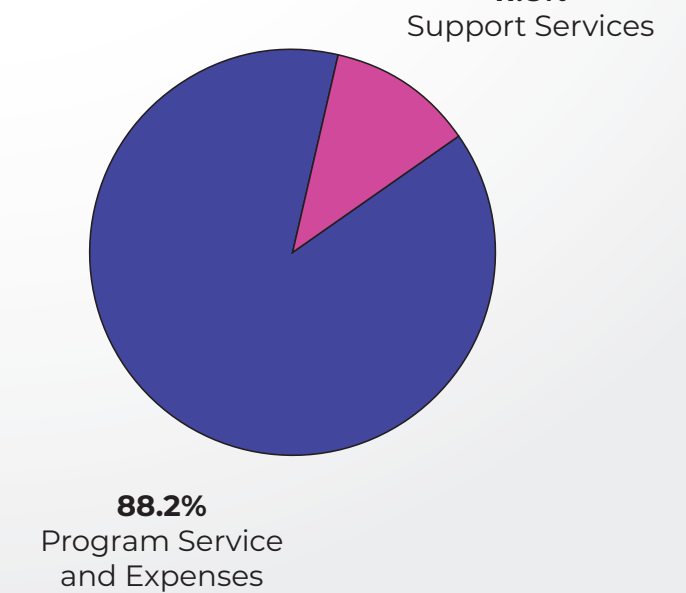
WHERE FUNDS
COME FROM



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
2020

Revenues	
Contributions	\$264,845
Foundation Grants	\$138,268
Special Events (net)	\$109,704
In-Kind and Miscellaneous	\$98,511
Investment Returns	<u>\$161,511</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$772,839</u>
Expenses	
Program Service Expenses	\$397,152
Management and General	<u>\$53,142</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$450,294</u>
Change in Net Assets	\$329,020
Net Assets	
December 31, 2019	\$1,750,174
December 31, 2020	\$2,079,194

HOW FUNDS
WERE SPENT



Partners & Sites by County

ALBANY

Albany School of Humanities, Arbor Hill Community School, Arbor Hill Park, Delaware Ave. Boys’ & Girls’ Club, Delaware Community School, Fairwood Apartments Tennis Facility, Hoffman Park, Hoffman Teen Center, Lincoln Park, Montessori Magnet School, Philip Schuyler Academy, Sheridan Prep Academy, and Westland Hills Park.

SCHENECTADY

Central Park, Central Park Middle School, Howe Elementary School, Jerry Burrell Park, Keane Elementary School, Michigan Avenue Park Courts, Mt. Pleasant Middle School, Paige Elementary School, Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Sportime, VanCorlaer Elementary School, Yates Elementary School and Zoller Elementary School.

RENSSELAER

Frear Park, Prospect Park, and Riverfront Park.



MISSION STATEMENT

“To reach out in a loving, caring way to the youth of the Capital Region, using tennis as the medium, especially those in the inner cities.” Within that overall mission, the following seven operating themes are emphasized:

1. Stress education

2. Promote good health (emotional and physical)

3. Instill positive values

4. Foster multi-cultural relationships
5. Support family preservation

6. Advocate good sportsmanship

7. Encourage community service



2020 Capital Region
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Foundation
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