



# Rally for the Future

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**USTA  FOUNDATION**



# The Mission

The mission of the USTA Foundation (USTAF) is to bring tennis and education together to change lives.

USTAF uses the sport of tennis as a vehicle to help under-resourced youth become more engaged in school and learning with the goal of succeeding in tennis and in life.

USTA Foundation Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization incorporated as the philanthropic entity of the United States Tennis Association Incorporated (USTA).

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# Meet Kathleen Wu

No stranger to the USTA, Kathleen J. Wu began her three-year term as president of the USTA Foundation in 2021 having served as Vice President since 2018. A lawyer in Dallas with 30-plus years of litigation experience, she first joined both the national USTA Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Directors in 2015-16. Among her many USTA volunteer assignments, Wu has previously served on the USTA Texas Board of Directors and as the chair of the USTA Diversity and Inclusion Committee.



"I deeply believe in the mission of the USTA Foundation," Wu said. "My legal experience is a plus, of course, but equally is my overall strategic acumen."

Adopted out of the foster care system at age five, Wu grew up near public tennis courts in Great Neck, N.Y., and it was in the New York City suburbs where her affinity for the sport began.

"I took our racquet down to the courts and hit balls against the wall and would pretend to play until I had to leave the court because lessons for the neighborhood kids started," Wu recalled. "I stood outside the fence watching, and I was so jealous. As a former foster kid, it never occurred to me that I could simply ask my mom to put me in lessons. She probably would have, but I never asked."

Wu became a self-described "devoted tennis mom" in adulthood when her son showed promising talent. It was his commitment to the sport that led to her becoming involved with the USTA.

"I love that the Foundation brings the gift of tennis to kids who might not have the chance to play. I saw what tennis did for my son," she said. "It taught him self-discipline and time management and the ability to bounce back from a loss, as well as how to win gracefully, how to be a leader and how to be a great teammate. It taught him grit and resilience, and a million other important lessons."

A 1982 graduate of Columbia University who earned her J.D. from George Washington University in 1985, Wu is admitted to the bar in three states — California, New York, and Texas.

"My work has never fit neatly into the lawyer category. I try to see my clients' problems and opportunities from all sides," she said. "That kind of 'seeing around corners' is valuable with the USTA and the Foundation."

In an unprecedented 2020, the USTAF family mobilized to raise over \$5 million for its 'Rally to Rebuild' campaign to support the NJTL network prompting Wu to remark "I am in the enviable position of having been handed an organization that is already in solid financial shape, despite the difficulties of 2020. For that, I am exceedingly grateful to outgoing President Tom Chen. My goal is to leave the Foundation in an even better condition for my successor."

# Message from the Chair, President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

During the past two years, USTAF has reaffirmed time and again that our supporters are unwavering in their commitment to serving our mission to change lives through tennis and education.

With all credit to our supporters, we are thrilled to report that USTAF has exceeded every benchmark set by our Board:

- Not only did every NJTL chapter continue to operate throughout the pandemic facing tremendous financial and operational challenges, but **35 new NJTL chapters were added** to the roster bringing the network to more than 285 chapters serving 160,000 youth in 42 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- Generous USTAF supporters continued to Rally for the Future and exceeded our USTAF fundraising goal by 17% for the first year of the new campaign remarkably generating 50% of the goal for the three-year campaign. Let's put numbers to these percentages to fully understand this achievement! **In 2021, USTAF donors and sponsors raised \$10,000,000 of the projected \$20,000,000 total for the Rally for the Future campaign.**
- USTAF **awarded a record \$441,000 in college scholarships** to 47 student leaders from NJTL chapters nationwide who committed to 20 colleges and universities including Harvard and HBCU Howard University, among many other outstanding institutions of higher learning.
- USTAF's first National Day of Learning **engaged with more than 50,000 students** through participating organizations including KIPP Charter Schools, 300 high schools, and NJTL chapters. The free virtual event featuring panels and speaker spotlights aimed to enrich the learning experience for the many kids across the country who faced challenges in the 2021 academic year due to the pandemic.

In a year that has set a new bar for the USTAF in terms of both programmatic growth as well as fundraising, \$6 million of the \$10 million raised has been allocated to NJTL priorities on the court and in the classroom and to providing critical organizational services to NJTL chapters to ensure both sustainability and capacity building.

We are also pleased to announce that our strategic priority to establish facilities to be operated by USTAF in Southern California and South Florida continue to progress and will directly benefit from the Rally for the Future campaign.

Here's to the Future!



*Chris Evert*  
Chris Evert  
Chair



*Kathleen Wu*  
Kathleen Wu  
President



*Daniel J. Faber*  
Dan Faber  
Executive Director

# USTAF & ESPN revitalize San Juan YMCA

Led by ESPN, with support from USTAF, local partners, and international sport development organizations, the YMCA of San Juan was restored in 2021 following heavy damage by Hurricane Maria in 2018.



In a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring Rio Olympic gold medalist Monica Puig, the “Y” (as it is known to residents) reopened in August ensuring that thousands of Puerto Ricans will be able to get and stay active through tennis and other sports. Puig participated in a special Q&A with two children from the Puerto Rican Tennis Association’s (PRTA) local NJTL chapter.

The virtual event featured remarks on the community impact of the “Y” from stakeholders including Mabel Román Padró, executive director of the YMCA of San Juan; Rosa María Martínez, executive director of the USTA Caribbean Section and the PRTA; and Freddy Rolón, vice president of talent acquisition at ESPN.

The project is the 10th in ESPN’s “Built to Play” series, which builds multifunctional sport spaces in areas where they can have the most impact in the interests of sustainability, employment and empowerment for young people. The locations are selected based on need, population and socioeconomic status, and to date, the program has built facilities in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and India with another facility scheduled to open in Nigeria in 2021.

“When I won the gold medal back in 2016, I was so excited to see that the youth of Puerto Rico were starting to demand to play more tennis and that the sport really took traction in Puerto Rico. To be a part of this, and to be a part of this effort to restore the courts at the YMCA, it’s just huge,” Puig said.

“I hope that the youth coming up, the young kids, they don’t just see sport—and not just tennis—as something to win at, but as something that makes them happy, something that provides an outlet for them in stressful times,” Puig continued. “I feel like getting outside, running, connecting with friends and just having that sporting community can be absolutely incredible for a child’s development. It opens so many doors for the future of a young child.”



# Chase Return The Serve

For the eighth year, US Open sponsor Chase provided grants to 32 NJTL chapters across the country year impacting more than 13,000 underserved youth.

According to the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, the Chase Return the Serve program was the most memorable to youth interviewed for scholarships.

The grant money received by the Pete Brown Junior Tennis Program (PBJTP) was spent on staff, labor, COVID-19 PPE, equipment replacement, balls, tournament entry fees, mental health and nutrition education. Enough educators were employed to have a 1:8 staff to kids ratio. PBJTP also focused on Mental Health and Nutrition Awareness, hosting onsite events attended by more than 200 participants at Harvard Park and brought in experts to inform and educate the community.

The NJTL chapters that received grants totaling \$322,500 in 2021 included:

- The ACE Project  
**Northbrook, IL**
- Advantage  
Cleveland Tennis and Education, Inc.  
**Cleveland, OH**
- Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation  
**Peachtree Corners, GA**
- Dallas Tennis and Education Academy  
**Addison, TX**
- Directed Initiatives for Youth, Inc., dba Excite All Stars  
**New Orleans, LA**
- East Palo Alto Tennis & Tutoring  
**East Palo, CA**
- First Break Academy  
**Carson, CA**
- First Serve Miami  
**Miami, FL**
- Fred Wells Tennis & Education Inc.  
**St. Paul, MN**
- Harlem Junior Tennis & Education Program  
**New York, NY**
- Houston Tennis Association  
**Houston, TX**
- InnerCity Tennis Foundation  
**Minneapolis, MN**
- Kings County Tennis League  
**Brooklyn, NY**
- Legacy Youth Tennis and Education  
**Philadelphia, PA**
- Love To Serve, Incorporated  
**Chicago, IL**
- MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation  
**Jacksonville, FL**
- Metropolitan Tennis & Education Group  
**Silver Spring, MD**
- Motor City Tennis Club  
**Southfield, MI**
- New York Junior Tennis & Learning  
**Long Island City, NY**
- Opportunity Tennis  
**Inkster, MI**
- People of Palmer Park  
**Detroit, MI**
- Pete Brown Junior Tennis Program  
**Tarzana, CA**
- Portland Tennis & Education Foundation  
**Portland, OR**
- Sandy Springs Tennis Association  
**Sandy Springs, GA**
- South Atlanta Community Tennis Association  
**Fairburn, GA**
- Sportsmen’s Tennis & Enrichment Center  
**Dorchester, MA**
- St Paul Urban Tennis  
**St Paul, MN**
- Tenacity  
**Boston, MA**
- Tennis Opportunity Program  
**Chicago, IL**
- Washington Tennis & Education Foundation  
**Washington, DC**
- XS Tennis & Education Foundation  
**Chicago, IL**
- Zina Garrison Tennis Academy  
**Houston, TX**

# Jersey Mike's & Manitou Fund Serves Up Dreams



As USTAF has continued to expand its supporters along with increased individual contributions, 2021 produced historic results with two major commitments from a corporation and a foundation.

As part of the Rally for the Future campaign, Jersey Mike's Subs committed to a campaign to support the USTAF by donating 20 percent of sales on September 4 at the company's more than 2,000 locations nationwide. To build awareness, a national promotional spot featuring USTA Foundation chairperson Chris Evert and Jersey Mike's founder Peter Cancro aired during the US Open resulting in \$2 million raised in one day to benefit USTAF NJTL programs serving more than 160,000 youth.

To underwrite USTAF's seminal "Capacity Building" campaign to provide organizational services to NJTL chapters and to provide college scholarship assistance to deserving high school seniors, the Manitou Fund contributed more than \$1,000,000 to USTAF in 2021.

The Nora McNeely Hurley Leadership Awards presented by the Manitou Fund recognized two high school seniors in the NJTL network -- one boy and one girl -- who demonstrated exceptional leadership and tennis skills. In addition, the USTA Foundation's Manitou Scholarship Fund presented five student-athletes in the USTAF Excellence Program with partial college scholarships: Dylan L. (Brooklyn, NY), Bryan M. (Washington, DC), Eve M. (Atlanta, GA), Kondwani P. (Greensboro, NC), and Tory B. (Los Angeles, CA).

With the grant from the Manitou Fund, USTAF expanded organizational and educational services offered to chapters. Following a successful national pilot in 2021 of The Winward Academy customized online educational program that prepares students for college through SAT/ACT coursework and assistance with the college application process, USTAF will provide Winward Academy scholarships to up to 50 NJTL chapters going forward. USTAF also launched a successful pilot program at no cost to NJTL chapters to focus chapters on maximizing their organizational capacity and driving overall growth.

The 2021 Nora McNeely Hurley Leadership Award recipients were Anthony G. and Eve M.



**ANTHONY G.**  
**Hometown:** Bronx, NY  
**NJTL:** New York Junior Tennis & Learning  
**College:** LaGuardia Community College



**EVE M.**  
**Hometown:** Atlanta, GA  
**NJTL:** South Atlanta College: Tennessee State University  
**Major:** Mass Communications

# "King Richard" inspires NJTL players



USTAF and Warner Bros. celebrated the release of the critically acclaimed film "King Richard" with a series of community activations for 850 youth in 27 markets nationwide to attend advance screenings of the movie which chronicles the journey of Richard Williams and his wife, Oracene, as they guide Venus and Serena on their path to changing the sport of tennis and the world forever.

Demonstrating their commitment to the message conveyed in the movie to inspire youth, Will Smith, who won an Oscar in the title role as Richard Williams, and Saniyya Sidney and Demi Singleton, who portrayed the young Venus and Serena Williams, respectively, hosted a kids' clinic and meet-and-greet for youth from XS Tennis, an NJTL chapter in Chicago.

At the event, Smith presented all-inclusive scholarships to rising stars of the XS Tennis program, covering the cost of monthly membership, summer camp and clinics for one year.

XS Tennis, established in 2005 by Kamau Murray, provides low-cost tennis and education programming to nearly 3,000 youth annually in urban Chicago. Murray, who coached American Sloane Stephens to the US Open title in 2017, grew up playing tennis on public courts in the city.

# Venus Williams dresses girls for success

Venus Williams, and her activewear brand, EleVen, made a generous donation of tennis apparel to five NJTL chapters in California sending a message to dress for success to the chapter's females who enthusiastically modeled their new outfits on the courts at:

- Badon Tennis Academy - **Sunland, CA**
- Pasadena Tennis Association - **Pasadena, CA**
- First Break Academy - **Carson, CA**
- Pete Brown Junior Tennis Program - **Tarzana, CA**
- 40 Love Foundation - **Inglewood, CA**



# NJTL students meet legends

## EVERT GREETES TENACITY YOUTH

September 23 was a special day for 24 young Tenacity tennis players who met USTAF Chair Chris Evert and played tennis at the historic Longwood Cricket Club alongside 120 adult players raising \$950,000 for the Tenacity mission in the Tenacity Cup.



## NADAL SURPRISES WTEF YOUNGSTERS

Playing for the first time at the Citi Open in Washington, DC in August, Rafael Nadal left a lifetime memory with the children of the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation. When he was practicing on the court adjacent to where former Grand Slam doubles champion Luke Jensen and current WTA star Jessica Pegula were leading a clinic for the youngsters, Nadal joined the excited group for a photo opportunity.



## STARS JOIN SPORTSMEN'S PLAYERS ON COURT

Students from the Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center in Dorchester, MA had a day to remember when tennis stars Nick Kyrgios and Jack Sock, who were representing Team World at the Laver Cup, stopped by the club on September 21 to hit with the kids on the court and share life lessons with them. Following the tennis clinic, the kids were treated to a dinner provided by Jersey Mike's.



# NJTL creates a legend: Vita Vea

If a 346-pound NFL Super Bowl defensive tackle were to be your opponent on the other side of the net, most tennis players might assume they could have an advantage in covering the court.

However, that just might not be true if the opponent were Vita Vea of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers who claims tennis as his first sport when he joined the East Palo Alto Tennis & Tutoring (EPATT) program in the San Francisco Bay area.



Vita Vea at Super Bowl LV on February 7, 2021. Image courtesy of USA Today.

Vea credits his family with his athletic genes and playing tennis for eight years as a youngster for developing his own agility, hand-eye coordination, acceleration, and being explosive on the court.

"When you're playing singles, you have the whole court to run around and hit the ball, then they hit the ball back and you have to hit it back," explained Vea describing the benefits of playing singles.

"There was a program where we grew up in our neighborhood. Our parents were working nonstop so it was an afterschool program," recalled Vea referring to EPATT. "They provided tutoring. They would feed you and then you get to play tennis. For young kids, you just go out there, and they teach you the fundamentals. As you grow older, you start competing against each other, and then in the summertime you start competing in tournaments."

Vea acknowledges that playing tennis has taken a back seat to his NFL football career at present, but leaves the door open for the future.

"I haven't played in awhile, but I feel like playing it for eight years, it's just like riding a bike for me now," he said.



EPATT Executive Director David Higaki with high school freshman Vita Vea



Higaki and Vea reunite after Vea joins the NFL

## NJTL players on the world stage

### ROBIN MONTGOMERY CAPTURES US OPEN JUNIOR GIRLS' SINGLES & DOUBLES

When Robin Montgomery won both the 2021 US Open Girls' Singles and Doubles Championships, she followed in the footsteps of Dutch player Michaella Krajicek, who achieved the same double in 2004 just days after Montgomery was born. Prior to Krajicek, former world #1 Lindsay Davenport held both titles in 1992.



Montgomery, the #7 seed in the Junior Girls' singles draw, claimed her crown by defeating No. 6 seed Kristina Dmitruk, of Belarus, in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4. The win catapulted Montgomery to the world #2 Junior ranking.

Just hours later, she and Ashlyn Krueger captured the Junior Girls' doubles in an All-American final emerging victorious in a third set tiebreak against Reese Brantmeier and Elvina Kalieva, 5-7, 6-4, [10-4].

For Montgomery, who is a product of the USTA Foundation Excellence program, the sky is now her only limit as she puts her outstanding Junior career behind her and focuses on a full-time transition to playing professional tennis on the ITF and WTA Tours. She has won two \$25,000 ITF tournaments.

Montgomery started playing tennis at the age of five in the Junior Tennis Champions Center's (JTCC) NJTL program in Washington, D.C., at the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center. She quickly showed great promise and enthusiasm for the sport, which led to her receiving a scholarship to train at JTCC in College Park, MD where she continues to return following her travels.

Robin also excels off court. She was honored by USTAF in 2017 as the Mid-Atlantic National Essay contest winner and was the recipient of the 2017 Fila REACH (Realizing Extraordinary Accomplishments with Courage and Humility) Award for her work in establishing a community outreach center Hope Community Public Charter School in her native Washington, D.C.



### TIAFOE NOTCHES OLYMPIC WINS AT TOKYO 2020

Played one year later than originally scheduled due to the covid pandemic, the Tokyo Olympics did not disappoint Team USA's Frances Tiafoe, who scored opening round wins in singles and doubles.

One of nine first-time Olympians playing for Team USA, the 23-year-old from Hyattsville, MD defeated South Korea's Soonwoo Kwon in straight sets and teamed up with 2016 mixed doubles silver medalist Rajeev Ram to advance in men's doubles.



Making the most of his Olympic experience, Tiafoe was also able to meet and snap a photo with Megan Rapinoe (USA Soccer) and Sue Bird (USA Basketball) in Tokyo.

"That kind of atmosphere is great," he said. "We are on the same page, being an Olympian, and that's respect in itself. I'm happy with what I've been able to do and to be an Olympian and see these other guys and be around greatness... I love greatness and everything that rubs off on you."

Tiafoe's second round opponent was No. 3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, whom he beat in straight sets one month prior at Wimbledon.

"I'm pumped up. I know he wants me, and I want him," Tiafoe said before the match which resulted in a Tsitsipas victory, 6-3, 6-4.

With the score even at 1-1 for 2021, the Tiafoe v Tsitsipas rivalry heated up again in the ATP Vienna 500 tournament in the fall with a three-set win for Tiafoe in the second round giving Tiafoe a 2-1 edge for the year in a battle of a pair known as NextGen leaders.

With the Olympics as the highlight of Tiafoe's year, the son of immigrants from the African nation of Sierra Leone who trained at JTCC where his father was head of maintenance, set his sights on improving his ranking. Not surprisingly, he did— improving from #59 to #38 by year-end.

Tiafoe is widely regarded as a role model for USTAF Excellence Team participants. At 15, he won the prestigious Junior Orange Bowl followed by the USTA Junior National Championships. After turning pro in 2015, he became the youngest winner of an ATP tournament at Delray Beach, FL. Reflecting on 2021, Tiafoe observed "It means everything to be an Olympian. That's what it's about. This is another milestone in my career I can check off. I'm forever an Olympian."



# USTAF College Scholarship Program

USTAF awarded \$435,000 in college scholarship assistance in 2021 to 46 deserving student-athletes.

USTAF provides financial assistance annually to youth who require financial assistance for college matriculation. Criteria for successful applicants include participation in USTA and other organized youth tennis programs, high academic achievement, and engagement in their communities.

Those individuals denoted with an asterisk received additional funding of \$5,000 for their participation in the USTAF Excellence Program.

**Donald Lawson Tisdell College Scholarship**  
**\$10,000**

Sade A.	Morgan M.
James B.	Bryan M.*
Brooklyn B.	Kiara O.
Cristopher R.	Kondwani P.*
Makayla C.	Daquarrius P.
Yasmin C.	Faith P.
Emamaria D.	Alec S.
Megan F.	Ava S.
Tyler H.	Colin S.
Andrew K.	Brianna W.
Dylan L.*	Kamryn W.
Gaitree L.	

**Marion Wood Baird College Scholarship**  
**\$15,000**

Madelyn O.

**Nora McNeely Hurley Leadership Award**  
**\$10,000**

Anthony G.                      Eve M.\*

**Dwight F. Davis College Scholarship**  
**\$10,000**

Nicholas P.                      Maya S.

**Dwight Mosley College Scholarship**  
**\$10,000**

Tory B.\*                      Chloe V.

**Rosalind P. Walter College Scholarship**  
**\$10,000 and \$15,000**

Oneil B.                      Ginger J.

**Professional Tennis Management**  
**\$10,000**

Logan D.                      Troy R

**Eve Kraft College Scholarship**  
**\$2,500**

Grace H.                      Linden P.

**Novo Nordisk Donnelly National Scholarship**  
**\$10,000**

Leena B.                      Ivy W.

**Novo Nordisk Donnelly Regional Scholarship**  
**\$10,000**

Henry G.                      Jack L.

Autumn H.                      Jared L.

Sylvie H.                      Alyssa M.

Frances L.                      Jake R.

# Catching up with NJTL Ace Jabeiro Brown

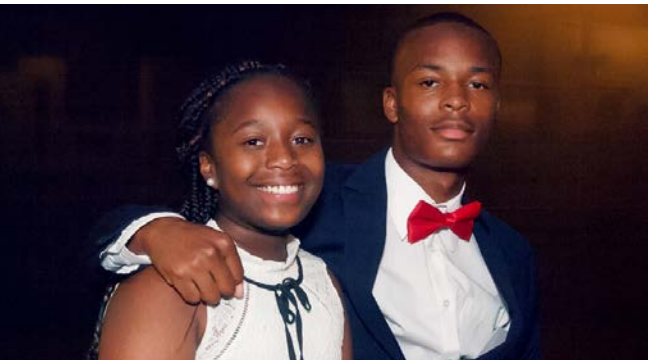


Photo courtesy of the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation.

Jabeiro Brown of Jacksonville, FL has written thousands of words over the course of his academic career—but thanks to one special essay he penned as a student-athlete at the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, he was afforded a once-in-a- lifetime opportunity that continues to shape who he is today.

Brown, now 20, was selected in 2018 as the Boys’ 18-and-Under winner in the 20th annual NJTL Essay Contest presented by Deloitte. The contest asks a question that allows students to share what they have learned through tennis and community involvement with their NJTL. Winners are rewarded with a trip to New York during the US Open to attend Arthur Ashe Kids’ Day, visit famous sights, and participate in a mentoring event with working professionals in partnership with presenting sponsor Deloitte.

Brown and his younger sister first attended the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation summer camp prior to entering third grade in 2008. He quickly became one of the Foundation’s shining stars enthusiastically participating in many of the NJTL’s programs including ‘Tennis-n-Tutoring,’ an after-school initiative for children in kindergarten through the fifth grade that provides academic enrichment and health and fitness activities. He also joined the traveling junior tennis team.

Brown’s essay stressed the importance of discipline, and how participation in his NJTL’s after-school programs affected all areas of his life.

“The most important lesson I’ve learned is to be disciplined. Discipline has made me a better student, tennis player, and individual overall,” he wrote. “Being disciplined helped me influence others as well. People look at me and are motivated because I work towards what I want and don’t settle for less.”

Brown earned three college scholarships from the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation when he graduated from high school in 2018, and he was also awarded he Dwight F. Davis Memorial College Scholarship by the USTA Foundation which helped him matriculate to the University of Central Florida where he is currently studying business management. A junior, he ultimately hopes to pursue a career in music and entertainment marketing.

Brown said that the topic he selected for his essay has remained a mantra in his life. “In college, you don’t have people pushing you to do things,” he explained. “Learning discipline has helped me to push myself to stay on track. No matter how hard things get, never give up, because things might seem hard and you might feel that you’ll never accomplish what you want to, but if you keep going, you will.”

# Excellence program seniors commit to college tennis

With resources provided by the USTAF Excellence Program, 22 talented tennis players from NJTL chapters across the country literally closed the book on an important chapter of their lives in 2021 moving onto their next phase as collegiate student-athletes on full or partial athletics and/or academic scholarships.

USTAF Excellence Programs collaborate with USTA Player Development in 19 major markets nationwide supporting 300+ top student-athletes in the NJTL network to help fund educational, tennis training and tournament expenses for the participants to succeed on and off the court.

The Class of 2021 Excellence Program seniors committed to 20 colleges and universities:

- Alabama A&M University
  - Charleston Southern University
  - Florida A&M University
  - Harvard University
  - Howard University
  - University of Maryland
  - University of Nevada Las Vegas
- University of Nevada Reno
  - The College of New Jersey
  - University of Notre Dame
  - Norfolk State University
  - North Carolina Central University
  - Quincy University
- University of Seattle
  - Southern University
  - College of Southern Nevada
  - Vanderbilt University
  - University of Washington
  - Wesleyan University
  - Xavier University

# The story of Tory B.

2021 was a very rewarding year for Tory B. who graduated from a nontraditional high school in South Los Angeles having earned two partial college scholarships as well as being named one of six winners of the Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award, one of ESPN’s prestigious Sports Humanitarian Awards.

A USTAF Excellence Program participant, Tory was selected as the recipient of both a Manitou Fund Scholarship and the Dwight Mosley College Scholarship. In the fall, he enrolled at Howard University where he plays Division I tennis.

The Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award honors high school and college-aged students who, like Billie Jean King, use the power of sports to improve their communities. Tory’s story is inspiring. After not being able to play tennis in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) as an independent player because of California’s regulations, Tory recognized the inequities. Working with the Pete Brown Junior Tennis Program (PBJTP) to develop a community plan for inclusion of non-traditional high school players in CIF competition, Tory proposes a change to the current entry process for students in the Southern Los Angeles Unified School District to ensure that top players from charter, private school, and homeschooled students can participate as a combined team throughout the CIF season and playoffs to provide equal opportunities for all student-athletes.



© Kelly Backus / ESPN Images

# NJTL essay contest sponsored by Deloitte

More than 1,100 entries were received in 2021 for the 23rd Annual NJTL Essay Contest Presented By Deloitte with 10 student-athletes ages 10-18 from NJTL chapters nationwide announced as winners.

Due to the pandemic which required postponement of the winners’ annual trip to New York City during the US Open, the winners were celebrated during a virtual awards ceremony in October and will travel to New York in June, 2022. Roundtrip airfare for the winner and a parent/legal guardian, a two-night stay in a hotel, multiple cultural experiences in the city and the unique opportunity to play tennis in Arthur Ashe Stadium offer the youth an enriching experience.

Students were asked to answer the following question in 350 words or less:

*“Robert Ryland was an accomplished tennis player and coach. He was known for seeing the possibilities in those he coached and within himself. Mr. Ryland was the first African American professional tennis player and the first African American to play in the NCAA National Championships. What facts about his story inspire you to break boundaries and excel in school, sports, and to follow your dreams? What are your possibilities?”*

Deloitte, part of the largest global professional services network, returned as the presenting sponsor of the NJTL Essay Contest and virtual ceremony.

“It is an honor to support our next generation of leaders,” said Dr. Terri Cooper, Deloitte’s vice chair of external diversity, equity and inclusion. “We are proud to play a part in helping students dream big and seize the opportunities that await them.”

One boy and one girl were selected in each group:

<b>10 &amp; Under</b>		
<b>Brooklyn B.</b>	Okemos, MI	Todd Martin Youth Leadership
<b>Caleb K.</b>	Northport, AL	Tuscaloosa Tennis Association
<b>12 &amp; Under</b>		
<b>Leedia X.</b>	St. Paul Park, MN	Saint Paul Urban Tennis
<b>Devin S.</b>	San Francisco, CA	YTA McLaren Park
<b>14 &amp; Under</b>		
<b>Erin B.</b>	Houston, TX	Houston Tennis Association
<b>Kaleb N.</b>	Apple Valley, MN	Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center
<b>16 &amp; Under</b>		
<b>Talia S.</b>	Bala Cynwyd, PA	Legacy
<b>Sean W.</b>	Oklahoma City, OK	First Serve OKC
<b>18 &amp; Under</b>		
<b>Molly S.</b>	Louisville, KY	Rising Stars of Kentucky Tennis
<b>Clifton S.</b>	DeSoto, TX	Dallas Tennis & Education Academy

## Champions visit Avenue of Aces



In 2019, Billie Jean King donated to the USTA Foundation to close out her “Neighborhood” on the Avenue of Aces placing bricks for each of the Original 9, plus promoter Gladys Heldman and Hall of Famer Althea Gibson. However, it was on the day of the 2021 US Open Women’s Finals that four members of the Original 9 were able to visit the Avenue of Aces in person. From left to right above are: Julie Heldman, Kerry Melville Reid, Peaches Bartkowicz, and Valerie Ziegenfuss.



Following their participation in the USTAF Pro Am during the US Open, Bob and Mike Bryan visited for the first time their 16x16 paver placed in 2020 on the Avenue of Aces and pledged an additional \$25,000 for a paver to honor their parents. USTAF Board members Missie Rennie (left) and Molly John (right) are pictured above with the Bryans.

## Bryans support USTAF “fun”raising

Having made their decision prior to the US Open to retire as the winningest doubles team in history, Bob and Mike Bryan promptly turned their attention to giving back to the sport they love by raising the level of their philanthropic game through their “fun”raising commitment to USTAF.

The Bryans, who are also members of the USTAF Celebrity & Player Advisory Council, kicked off USTAF US Open fundraising activities with their appearance at the 3rd Annual Raise A Racquet fundraiser at Englewood Field Club in New Jersey and two weeks later played in the USTAF Pro-Am.

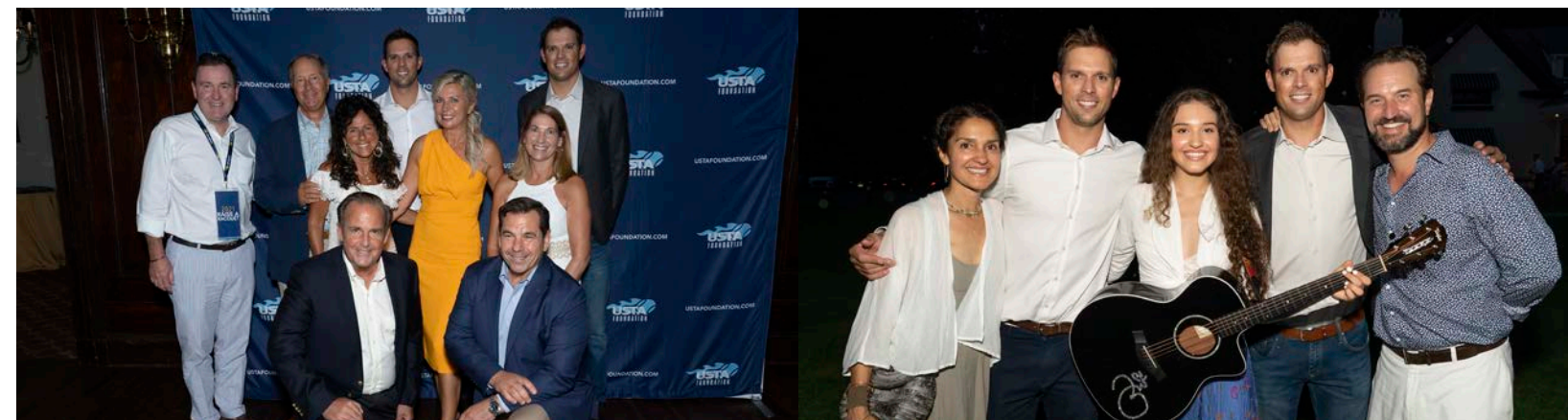
Bob and Mike also joined talent singer-songwriter Zia Victoria and The Neil Diamond Experience for an energized musical performance.

The event showcased USTAF Excellence Program student-athletes from Harlem Junior Tennis & Learning (HJTEP) and New York Junior Tennis & Learning (NYJTL) who played in exhibition matches.

The live auction included a hit with the Bryan Brothers, signed Bryan Brothers memorabilia, and US Open tickets.

Raise A Racquet lead sponsor ESPN was supported by Ernst & Young, Jersey Mike’s, and Benzel-Busch Mercedes.

Event chairs were Tatiana Cancro, Caroline Crozier, James Dunn, Molly John, and Mitchell Lynn.



# USTAF Pro Am showcase stars

For Bob and Mike Bryan competing against the top doubles stars in the world in the second week of the US Open was routine for more than 20 years beginning in 1998 when they turned pro. In 2021, the Bryans found themselves playing in the second week of the US Open under completely different circumstances. The twins decided to make their debut at the US Open as retired professionals by playing in the USTAF Pro-Am teaming with amateurs against a roster of Hall of Famers and retired champions.

Twenty amateurs were paired with Kim Clijsters, Arantxa Sánchez, Tracy Austin, Luke and Murphy Jensen, Vania King, Chanda Rubin, Jimmy Arias, James Blake, Darren Cahill, Jan-Michael Gambill, Brad Gilbert, Geoff Grant, Jesse Levine, Michael Russell, and Mary Joe Fernández, and the Bryans.

After five rounds of play, it was no surprise to anyone that Bob and Mike were on the opposite sides of the net playing in the finals with amateurs Daniel Haimovic and Jason Karp.

The Pro-Am included lunch in a luxury suite and an afternoon watching the men’s semifinals and doubles final (a new experience for the Bryans to be watching from the sidelines after winning the men’s doubles five times).



# USTAF Opening Night Gala sets record

The USTAF Opening Night Gala Presented By ESPN was a record-setting evening raising more than \$2 million to support the NJTL network.

Past USTAF President Tom Chen was honored with the Serving Up Dreams Award, and the Original 9 received the Trailblazer Award in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the founding of women’s professional tennis in 1971.

The sold-out event co-chaired by Bill Macatee and Tatiana Cancro, welcomed 175 donors and celebrities including Alec Baldwin, Tiki Barber, Gayle King, Billie Jean King, Rosie Casals, Hannah Storm, Mike Tyson, Lindsey Vonn, Vera Wang, and Anna Wintour.

In addition to presenting sponsor ESPN, Jersey Mike’s, Chase, Rolex, and Deloitte supported the USTAF mission to change lives through tennis and education, and the very lively ‘Live Auction’ pulled in \$550,000.



# Art auction & auto raffle: “win-win” for all



As part of the Be Open initiative at the 2021 US Open, the USTA assembled a group of diverse and underrepresented artists to create artwork reflecting their unique experiences. The ‘Open Canvas’ collection was showcased outside of Arthur Ashe Stadium for the duration of the tournament.

When the 10 original large-scale multi-media or digital art were auctioned online, it was a win-win benefiting both the artists and USTAF with proceeds benefiting the artist’s charity of choice and USTAF.

# Sloane Stephens revs up engines for raffle



In a chance-of-a-lifetime to benefit the Rally for the Future campaign, Sloane Stephens teamed up with USTAF and fundraising company Omaze to offer a chance to win a Mercedes-AMG G63 (known as a “G-wagon”). Every raffle ticket purchased benefited the Rally for the Future campaign with the net proceeds of \$137,988 shared by the Sloane Stephens Foundation and USTAF.

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Kondwani Patterson

Hometown: Greensboro, NC

NJTL: Greensboro Tennis Foundation

College: Bryant University

“I fell in love with teaching younger students at GTP. This inspired me to start the “Patterson Tennis Academy.” Providing free to lowcost lessons, I have been able to help improve the character of 10 young individuals through tennis. The joy I have felt through being a mentor for the past two years in irreplaceable.”

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**Hometown:** Washington, DC  
**NJTL:** Metropolitan Tennis & Education Group  
**College:** Morgan State University

“The NJTL has helped me mature into an athlete and a better person. At our practices, we talk about the mental aspect of the game and how important it is to have a positive mindset. We also give back to our community by hosting events where little kids can learn how to play tennis.”

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**Hometown:** Brooklyn, NY  
**NJTL:** Highland Park Tennis Association  
**College:** Rider University

“Tennis has taught me many different life skills and life lessons. The main skills were perseverance, time management and motivation.”

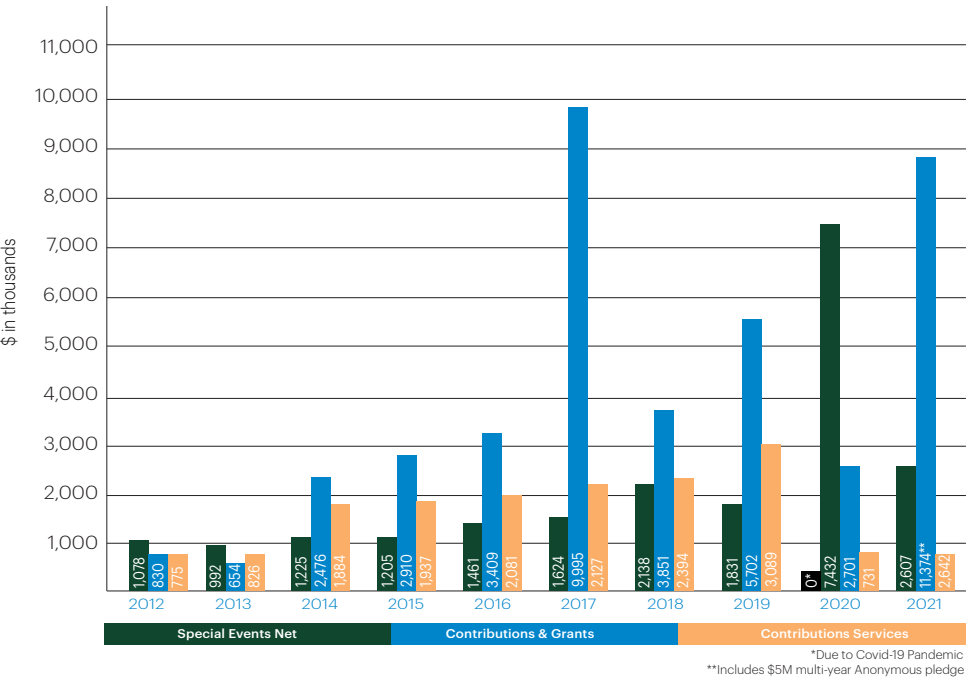
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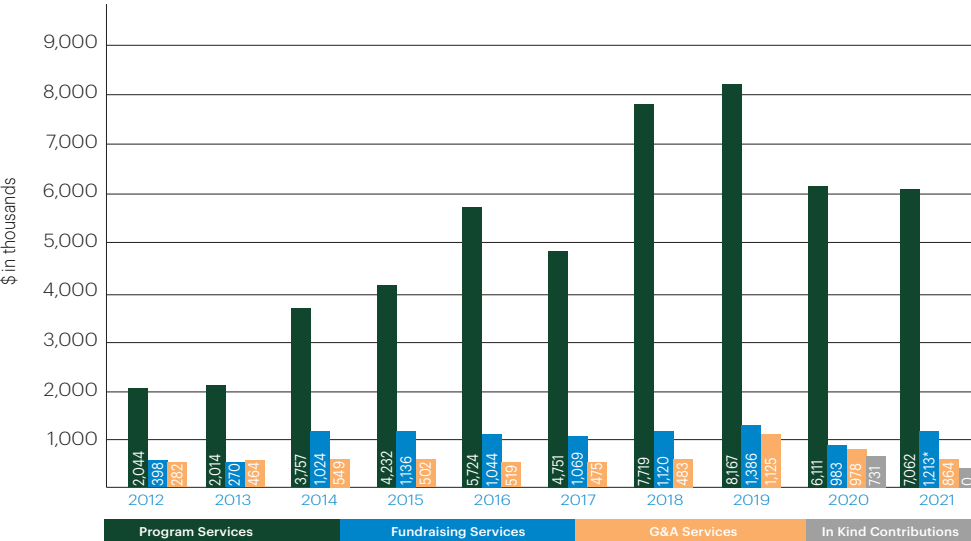
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