

NJTL of Indianapolis 2025

# IMPACT



# REPORT



# ABOUT NJTL OF INDY

NJTL of Indianapolis offers youth tennis and education programs throughout the year for children and teens, regardless of family income levels. Programs are open to everyone who wants to play and learn. NJTL will never turn a child away due to financial circumstances.



## OUR MISSION, VALUES AND GOALS

NJTL of Indianapolis follows the example set by Arthur Ashe to promote education, good character and healthy lifestyles to children through the sport of tennis. Through the game of tennis, young people are educated and empowered to become successful citizens their entire lives.

NJTL of Indianapolis programs support our core values including:

- Honesty and Integrity
- Sportsmanship
- Teamwork
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Reading and Education
- Family Involvement
- Volunteers, Partners and Community

**“Our idea is to use tennis as a way to gain and hold the attention of young people so that we can teach them about matters more important than tennis.”**

– NJTL co-founder Arthur Ashe

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 marked continued growth for NJTL of Indianapolis as we expanded access to free and affordable tennis and education programs for youth across the city. We served more than 2,000 children and teens while remaining focused on removing barriers to participation.

Summer programs grew across the board, including our core classes, school-based initiatives, and groups program in partnership with 16 neighborhood centers, day camps, and nonprofits. Nearly 1,000 youth were introduced to tennis through these partnerships, many for the first time, while also gaining

valuable social-emotional skills through structured lessons and positive mentorship.

A major highlight of the year was the launch of the Indy Parks Summer Tennis Program in partnership with Indy Parks & Recreation and USTA Central Indiana, which brought free weekly tennis lessons to city parks and reached hundreds of youth. Meanwhile, the IPS Fall Tennis League continued to expand, with increased participation and growing interest in school-based tennis, helping create lasting pathways for young players throughout Indianapolis.



# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## SUMMER



Nearly 500 youth took part in our summer “core” program at 16 sites, and almost 1,000 more participated through our groups program.

## AFTERSCHOOL



We added Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School to our growing afterschool program, which offers free tennis classes.

## IPS FALL LEAGUE



We offered fun lessons and matches in our expanding IPS Fall League, which had 479 students from 25 schools.

## INDY PARKS



We added free, weekly lessons at seven parks this past summer, in partnership with Indy Parks and USTA Central Indiana.

# SUMMER PROGRAM

Our “core” Summer Program continued to be the foundation of our summer offerings in 2025, providing low-cost, weekly tennis and education programming for youth ages 5-18 across 16 Indy-area schools and parks. Open to players of all skill levels, the program emphasized skill development, physical activity,

and fun in a welcoming environment. Scholarships ensured that cost was not a barrier for families who wanted their children to participate. In addition to tennis instruction, participants engaged in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons focused on teamwork, confidence, and perseverance.



**“This past summer, learning and playing tennis with the NJTL of Indianapolis had a powerful and lasting impact on (my son). Through NJTL, he not only learned tennis skills, but also learned how to manage emotions, try new things, and believe in his abilities as a growing young person.”**

*Parent of NJTL of Indianapolis participant*

# INDY PARKS PROGRAM



2025 marked the launch of the Indy Parks Summer Tennis Program, our new partnership with Indy Parks & Recreation and USTA Central Indiana. The program brought free weekly tennis lessons to neighborhood parks, making the sport accessible to youth who may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in organized programming.

Through this initiative, 460 children were introduced to tennis in familiar, community-based settings. The program removed barriers related to cost and transportation while offering consistent instruction, positive mentorship, and a fun, active outlet during the summer months. Plans are already underway to expand this program to additional parks in future summers.



# SUMMER GROUPS PROGRAM

Our Summer Groups Program reached nearly 1,000 youth in 2025 through partnerships with 16 neighborhood centers, day camps, and nonprofit organizations. These collaborations allowed us to bring tennis instruction directly to where kids already spend their summers, introducing the sport in a low-pressure, engaging way.

For many participants, this was their first exposure to tennis. Along with learning basic skills and game play, youth were introduced to SEL concepts such as respect, communication, and effort. The Groups Program continues to be one of our most impactful entry points for new players.



# IPS FALL LEAGUE



The IPS Fall Tennis League continued its strong growth in 2025, providing 479 Indianapolis Public Schools students with the opportunity to compete in free, organized “play” matches while representing their schools. Open to K-5<sup>th</sup> graders, the league emphasized sportsmanship, teamwork, and confidence alongside competitive play. The league plays a key role in building sustainable tennis pathways within IPS and encouraging students to stay active during the school year.

**“NJTL of Indianapolis has been a valued partner in expanding equitable athletic opportunities for IPS students. Their passion for serving youth and strengthening communities aligns closely with our mission, and we are grateful for the positive influence they continue to have on our students.”**

*Jordan Leonard, IPS Senior District K-8 Athletic Manager*

# AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM



NJTL's Afterschool Program expanded in 2025, offering free tennis and enrichment programming at Enlace Academy and Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School and a chapter of the Boys & Girls Club of Indianapolis. Weekly sessions provided students with a safe, structured

environment, blending physical activity with mentorship and SEL lessons. By keeping the program accessible and consistent, NJTL helped participants build confidence, develop positive routines, and stay engaged during critical afterschool hours.



# CINCINNATI OPEN EVENT

Players in the Jack Bradshaw Program experienced a standout opportunity in 2025 by traveling to the Cincinnati Open for a special NJTL event. The trip allowed advanced players to compete against NJTL athletes from across the Midwest while experiencing a world-class professional tennis environment.

In addition to match play, participants watched top-level tennis and gained exposure to the broader tennis community — with some even meeting then-World No. 1 Jannik Sinner. The experience reinforced the program's focus on excellence, opportunity, and long-term player development.



# 500 FESTIVAL KIDS' DAY

NJTL of Indianapolis was proud to once again participate in the 500 Festival Kids' Day on Monument Circle, introducing tennis to hundreds of families in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. Kids had the chance to try tennis in a fun, interactive setting while parents learned more about NJTL's summer programs.

The event also provided an opportunity to offer significant registration discounts, helping families sign up for summer programming on the spot. Community outreach events like Kids' Day play a critical role in raising awareness, welcoming new families, and expanding access to tennis across the city.



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

We're so thankful for our many volunteers who helped out with our many events in 2025. We couldn't do what we do without you! THANK YOU!



# WE'D LIKE TO THANK OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

## NIGHT AT THE NET SPONSORS

Tom and Dawn Bennett  
Glick Philanthropies  
Christie Farrell Lee & Bell  
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Matt & Beth Clark  
CSO Architects  
Coach Tim  
Bill Godfrey  
Tim Fuller Entertainment  
TMA Accounting



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## NIGHT AT THE NET

Our annual Night at the Net fundraiser was held at Highland Golf & CC in August, where we were joined by some of our strongest supporters for a day of tennis, pickleball, live and silent auctions and special presentations. We honored one of our participants, Sage Williams, for being a finalist in the USTA/Midwest Essay Contest, shown below with former NJTL participant and instructor Zak Abdulbari, who spoke about his time with the organization. NJTL of Indianapolis President Joseph Eldridge, below left, received the Chuck DeVoe Award for his years of dedication to NJTL.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## LADIES DAY AT IRC EAST



A heartfelt thanks to all the ladies who donated to and participated in our annual Ladies Day fundraising event at IRC East! The following donated to the cause: Indianapolis Racquet Club staff, pros and pro shop, Wolfies Grill (Nyla Wolfe), Twisted Sisters, Art Studio of Carmel (Cy Donnelly), Joe Farbach, Sahn's, Tracey Norman, Queen T Designs, Martha Faul.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

Sheila Abebe  
Alan Aguilar  
Art Studio of Carmel  
Alex Aukerman  
Erica Aukerman  
Holyn Aukerman  
Lance Aukerman  
Marcie Aukerman  
Keith Baltz  
William Bankston  
Jill Batler  
Scott Bell  
Elizabeth Belle  
Jon & Judy Birge  
Mindy Blaiklock  
David Bradshaw  
John Bradshaw  
Patricia Bradshaw  
Thomas Bradshaw  
Monica Brase  
David & Dawn Bratton  
Charlie Brown  
Vanessa Brown  
Zoy Brown  
Tim Bush  
Pam Caldwell  
Jenny Camire  
Robert Candis  
Abe Christie  
Carman Christie  
Kyle Christie  
Lee Christie  
Liz Christie  
Ryan Christie  
Stacey Christie  
Steven Christie  
Brent Claymon  
Kris Cook  
Linda Cook  
Amy & Brian Cooke  
Roberta Dakich  
Kathy Dalla Costa  
Denise & Dan Demeter  
Alex Dittmer  
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Cy Donnely  
Louann Dummich  
Brian Duncan  
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Megan Fernandez  
Alexander Fohl  
Pat Gamble-Moore  
John & Sally Gardner

# OUR SUPPORTERS

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Gertrude Gumbel  
Lori Hale  
Jerald & Anne Hayes  
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Jack McCullough  
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Rick & Wendy McNamer  
Jon-Adam & Catherine Michael  
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Lora Spilker  
Stanley & Marianne Spinola  
Rebecca Stall  
Rita & Larry Steinberg

# OUR SUPPORTERS

Debbie Steinhagen  
 Jay Suttle  
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 USTA/Midwest  
 Linda Utt  
 Cari Van Senus  
 Steve & Courtenay Wagner  
 Richard Weiss  
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West Indy Racquet Club  
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 Ann Wojtalik  
 Nyla Wolfe  
 Wolfies Grill  
 Susan Wynne  
 Darin Young  
 Julie Young  
 Jeffrey & Mei Ling Yu  
 Adam Zacher

## GRANT FUNDERS

USTA Foundation  
 Indiana Sports Corp  
 Lilly Endowment  
 Nicholas H Noyes JR. Memorial Foundation  
 USTA Central Indiana  
 Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation  
 Friends of Garfield Park  
 USTA/Midwest Section  
 Cynthia Ann Hargadon Charitable Fund  
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# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Joseph Eldridge, President  
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Monica Brase

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Jimmy Clark  
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Heather Iffert  
Rick McNamar  
Adam Zacher



Past and present NJTL of Indianapolis board members and staff listen as Joseph Eldridge thanks our supporters at Night at the Net.

## OUR STAFF

Dax Lowery, Executive Director  
Steve Mackell, Program Director  
Tyler Scanlan, Finance &  
Operations Manager



Program Director Steve Mackell, right, talks about AJ Graham, our Barbara Wynne Scholarship Award winner. As our top summer instructor, Graham received a \$1,000 college scholarship.

# THANKS FOR A GREAT 2025!





# FINANCES

## Revenue

Event	\$73,754
Fundraising	\$15,124
Grants	\$73,656
Other	\$4,572
Program	\$71,746
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$238,852</b>



## Expenses

Fundraising	\$13,409
Office	\$133,799
Program	\$90,452
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$237,660</b>

