



## INTRODUCTION

HJTEP brings tennis to youth from high-risk, low-income inner-city neighborhoods and offers opportunities for self-development, emphasizing education and a positive code of behavior. The Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Program (HJTEP), a not-for-profit organization, opens a new door for many inner-city boys and girls, ages 7-18, to learn the game of tennis. We recently served approximately 800 students during the school year, assisting youth from our program, schools and community centers and 150-300 in our summer program but the pandemic has cut that number considerably for safety protocols. What they experience on the courts, and in our education programs, develops the whole child—in sports, school and life. Tennis teaches kids essential life skills, sportsmanship, self-discipline, social and emotional competence and how to fight obesity and lead healthier lives. In their weekly sessions, participants also learn to improve communication skills and personal hygiene habits. At HJTEP, we insist on academic achievement and offer educational support. The average GPA of our participants is 3.1. (A 2.0 or higher GPA is required to remain in the program.)

As we enter the 2020-2021 school year, students are being faced with a great deal of uncertainty and disruption. The blended learning model approach that is being implemented in New York Schools will continue to present students with new challenges as they navigate both in-class as well as online/remote learning. HJTEP has a long and successful history of supporting the students who participate in our programming. In fact, over 95% of youth who participate in the HJTEP earn their high school diploma. This compares to 67% of students citywide and 25% of students in Central Harlem who graduate from high school. To meet the needs of our students for the coming school year, HJTEP has identified a need to upgrade our virtual platform to accommodate the needs of our youth who have come to rely on HJTEP supports throughout the school year.

Our established educational programming serves to compliment and enhance our students school experience through access to experienced tutors who can help to evaluate students to identify both deficiencies and strengths to assess where students are relative to their grade level curriculum. Intervention supports will be provided to those students who show gaps and enrichment activities will be made available to those students who are at grade level in order to help all students to achieve academic success.

## HJTEP PROGRAM AREAS

### **Tennis Programs**

Since 1972, our renowned youth tennis program has offered urban youngsters the chance to learn an unfamiliar sport and sharpen their skills on and off the courts. Participants transition from the Grassroots and Futures levels to the Tournament Level. Our top-level players are selected to participate on the Tournament Team. Admission to the HJTEP programs is on a first-come basis with preference given to returning students and Central-Harlem residents.



### **Educational Initiatives**

While learning tennis, our players are hitting the books as well as the courts. We urge them to do all they can academically, to complete high school and enroll in college. A 2.0 GPA is required in our program, but our participants average a 3.1 GPA.

### **Wellness**

Our Tennis Against Obesity (TAO) program is designed to help schools, students and parents recognize, address and combat a growing obesity epidemic. TAO has four keystones: fitness, nutrition, discipline and fun.

## **HJTEP'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### **The Solution and Plan Forward**

1. Use diagnostic and needs-based assessments to assess where students are across a range of domains and what they need going forward should be used to devise a plan to make up for the interruptions.
2. Mental Health staff representation
3. After-school help
4. Build an executive function piece to develop focus skills, time, and project management, accountability. Keep them engaged and in a routine

### **How we plan to help**

1. Assess students to understand exactly where students are academically
2. Determine growth rates needed to catchup and set learning goals for the year that are ambitious but attainable.
3. Differentiate instruction and provide opportunities for individualized learning.
4. Recruit top teachers, with grade-level experience, and equip them with rigorous academic curriculums and online teaching training.

### **Learning Plan Groupings**

Group 1: students who continue to progress, but at a slower pace than if they had remained in school.

Group 2: students who are generally stagnating at their current grade levels.

Group 3: students who are losing significant ground.

## **CASE FOR SUPPORT**

HJTEP is so much more than a tennis program, we are a connected community and service organization. And now more than ever before, we feel the weight of our responsibility to our young people, their families, and the larger community. Together, we will face these difficult challenges.

For more than 45 years, HJTEP has worked to meet the educational needs of youth from high risk, low income, inner city neighborhoods in New York City. A blended sports and education program have helped us to teach, mentor and shape our program participants into leaders ready for the next steps on their journeys. We are proud that over 95% of our participants graduate



from high school with an average GPA of 3.1 and over 65% are admitted to leading private and public universities; 25% of them on tennis scholarships. --The outcomes are clear, and we could not be prouder. HJTEP is making an indelible impact on lives of hundreds of scholars. Now more than ever, our city and our kids are dealing with challenging times. Many are fearful, depressed, and anxious about their families, communities, and the future.

HJTEP is working feverishly to give them back some normalcy this year. We have developed virtual programs to keep them physically fit and emotionally well during an uncontrollable pandemic that has attacked our city. No kids should have had to spend their summer vacation indoors. Our programs helped to mitigate the challenges of social distancing with online experiences that has brought them and will continue to bring them together. For high-risk groups, this kind of connection can do much to keep them focused on positive activities and reap the rewards of physical and mental exercise. HJTEP cannot provide these necessary programs without your support.

We do not know how long this crisis will last, and we need your help to ensure we have the resources needed to keep our children calm, engaged and active for as long as they need us. Here's how YOU can help... Simply click [HERE](#) to make a meaningful donation to support our coaches and staff as they work arduously to support New York City kids to become the champions they are destined to be.

We are in hopes of having a sponsor to support one or more of our components. 'Title Naming' to be discussed.

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **Katrina Adams, Executive Director**

Katrina started playing tennis at age 6 in a Chicago parks program. At 16, she was a two-time Illinois High School Association singles champion. Recruited by Northwestern University, she earned the NCAA doubles title there and was twice voted All-American. In 1988 she became a professional on the WTA Tour, retiring in 1999 with 20 career doubles titles. Ms. Adams was a USTA national coach 1999-2002, helping to develop some of the nation's top tennis players. She is currently an analyst for the Tennis Channel and a Co-Host CBS Sports Network. In 2005, Ms. Adams, a USPTA and PTR certified teaching professional, joined HJTEP and has grown the enrollment to over 1,000 participants and increased the operating budget to \$1million+. She also served as the Chair and President of the USTA 2015-2018 and has been the Vice President of the International Tennis Federation, (ITF) since 2015.



## **List of Board of Directors**

- **James R. Kelly III**, Chairman (CEO (Retired), Kellee Communications)
- **Cinta del Monaco Kemp**, Vice Chair (Partner, AltB Partners)
- **Andre Benjamin**, Treasurer (Financial Advisor)
- **Peter Bicks**, Secretary (Attorney, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP)
- **Katrina M. Adams**, President and Executive Director, Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Program, Inc.
- **Ruediger Albers**, Member-at-Large (President, American Wempe Corp.)
- **Steve Clark**, Member-at-Large (Consultant)
- **George Fay**, Member-at-Large (Real Estate Developer)
- **Dr. Philippe Douyon**, Member-at-Large (Founder & CEO, The Inle BrainFit Institute)
- **Jonathan Feigelson**, Member-at-Large (General Counsel and Head of Human Resources & Finance, ICAPITAL Network, Inc.,)
- **Dr. David Hodges**, Member-at-Large (CEO, Chief Medical Officer, Entrepreneur, Cardiologist)
- **Eugenia Kovavlev**, Member-at-Large (Philanthropist)
- **Manon Laroche**, Member-at-Large (Managing Director, Global Securitized Markets CITIGROUP, Inc. Corporate and Investment Bank)
- **Mario Scorcia**, Member-at-Large (Executive Vice President, Operations, Hudson)
- **David Tyree**, Member-at-Large (Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley)
- **Michelle Blake Wilson**, Member-at-Large (Managing Partner, The B'elle Group, Director, Sponsorship Activation BET Live, B.E.T. Network)
- **Robert Holland**, Emeritus (CEO Retired, Ben & Jerry's)

## **BUDGET**

### **Income**

Direct Public Support	\$159,000
Grants/Donations	\$153,750
Restricted Donations	\$100,000
Program Income	\$237,400
Fundraisers	\$353,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,003,650</b>



## **Expenses**

Program Service	\$488,155
General/Administration	\$381,026
Fundraising	\$106,000
Other	\$18,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$993,681</b>

Our budget will be adjusted as the year progresses with opportunities.

## **SUMMARY**

This year looks different to so many of our youth and is leaving them without knowing what comes next. HJTEP students have spent the past several months not sitting in class and not experiencing collaborative learning. The effect of school closures has added to the time students spend at home during the summer, fall and now winter months without face-to-face instruction from teachers. This reality coupled with parents being left to educate their own children while juggling crisis demands and uncertainty about the future begets knowledge regression. Our students are in danger of getting left behind, particularly low-income families. It will take more than a standard school year to help them catch up.

The Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Program needs support now more than ever. We are in the recover and rebuild stage. HJTEP needs to provide support to combat the effects of learning loss expected from a shortened 2019 -2020 school year and hole that he 2020-2021 finds a better balance for the student, teacher and parent.

We continue to work hard to ensure virtual programming is available during this time to keep our kids physically fit and emotionally well during an uncontrollable pandemic that has attacked our city. Grantors underwrite HJTEP's operating costs, making it possible to hire dedicated and talented staff, and to fund court rentals, equipment and tournament and travel costs. We are seeking support to contribute to all of our components but in particular, to our educational program in an amount of \$25,000 or more. HJTEP is so much more than a tennis program, we are a connected community and service organization. Please join us in helping to bring our programming to more deserving youth.

"Not only does HJTEP offer an amazing tennis program, but they stress the importance of education which is a parent's dream! They talk about it to the kids and they talk about it to the parents, offering several tutoring and enrichment programs to help kids succeed at school. I think that speaks volumes about a sports program!"

— Judith Rotardier-Vasquez