



# TUCSON COMMUNITY TENNIS PROGRAM

[www.TCTPforKIDS.org](http://www.TCTPforKIDS.org)

2013

## Letter From the President

Executive Director, Serena Quarelli, has been the active leader of TCTP since 2007. Serena will leave us on November 1st to help care for her aging mother in California.

During Serena's time with TCTP, we have received many accolades and recognition as a model program working to "grow the game of tennis" for young people throughout Tucson. Serena's legacy as a wonderful teacher and mentor for young tennis players is firmly established. Everyone connected with TCTP joins with me in thanking her for her years of dedicated service to our

community. We wish her well.

We extend a warm welcome to Stacey Pretzel, our new Executive Director. Stacey has been involved with tennis as a player, parent of a player, and she is the wife of a tennis pro. She is an experienced teacher with excellent interpersonal and communication skills. She is well organized and committed to motivating all students to reach their highest potential on the tennis court as well as in the classroom.

John Davis

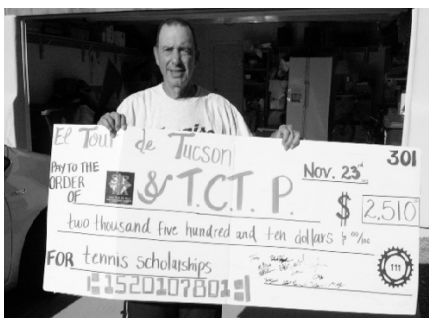


*Serena Quarelli with TCTP Board Members and Volunteers*

## 1st Annual Fundraising Event a Success

What a wonderful way to kick off TCTP's 1st Annual Adult-Child Tennis Tournament, held at Reffkin Tennis Center on Feb. 16, 2012. Young and old players from all over the community came together for doubles play, barbecue, and to watch the UA Men's Tennis Team compete. Keep your eyes and ears open for TCTP's 2nd Annual Event, coming this February!

## Team-111 Gives Back To The Community



Team-111, former participants of Smith Perry Tennis Academy program at Reffkin Tennis Center, keep coming back to Tucson from all across the nation to participate in the El Tour de Tucson. This is the cycling team's third year to race, having grown from 8 cyclists to 25 cyclist.

The proceeds raised by Team-111 will be donated to TCTP's summer scholarship fund to help insure young athletes, needing financial support, will have an opportunity to continue their growth in tennis.

Following the El Tour de Tucson, many former players of Ron Smith and John Perry gathered to celebrate with the team at the home of Marco Bravo, Sr. A check for \$2510.00 was presented to John Davis, TCTP President, and Ron Smith, Smith Perry Junior Tennis Academy Director.

Congratulations to Team-111 for enduring a rain filled Tour, staying healthy, and giving back to the young players in Tucson's tennis community.



# Tucson Community Tennis Program: We Bring Kids and Tennis Together

## Serena Makes An Impact

Serena Quarelli, has been a part of TCTP since 2002, when she joined the organization as a tennis coach, working with thousands of Tucson's inner-city youth. In 2007, Quarelli took on the responsibilities as the Executive Director of TCTP but insisted on continuing to coach, acknowledging the kids she works with keep her wanting to spend as much time on the court as possible.

Quarelli looks at her work as an opportunity to connect with her young students, building positive adult-child relationships and instilling a sense of pride that new skills, such as learning to play tennis, can be mastered with time and perseverance. "If we can help one kid get stronger in life then we've done our job."

With her enthusiasm and continual praise, elementary principals and teachers throughout Tucson have welcomed Quarelli and her team of coaches and volunteers into their schools year after year. Quarelli has seen the positive impact the non-profit program has brought to the community and has witnessed first generations of students



playing on high school tennis teams and venturing off to college.

This enthusiasm is manifested through TCTP's Board of Directors. Quarelli speaks highly of working with the Board. She acknowledges their dedication and kindness. "The connection between all these people (the Board, volunteers, coaches, and schools) is phenomenal. We're all working together toward a common cause and it has been one of my greatest pleasures."

TCTP and the community of Tucson will miss Serena Quarelli.

## NJTL Summer Program

TCTP participated in a 4-week National Junior Tennis & Learning summer program at Pueblo High School. The activity was a part of Tucson Parks & Recreation Summer Tennis Programs. Forty players from TCTP attended, coming from Pueblo High School's feeder schools. Many of these players also participated in the Saturday Bonanza at Reffkin Tennis Center throughout the summer and are eager to continue developing their skills on Saturdays at Himmel Park or Pueblo High.

TCTP coaches and volunteers created a positive atmosphere for growing the game of tennis. TCTP had an 8-&-under Junior Tennis Team that played at Reffkin Tennis Center on Sundays and is hopeful the team will continue.



The signs donated by Bud Guion and FASTSIGNS look great. Thank you!

## Bud Watches On

Once again, Bud Minkin is watching over TCTP players at Reffkin Tennis Center. Thanks to April and Jon Fenton, a new plaque, dedicated to Bud, has been secured to his favorite spot on the wall overlooking court 1. Bud's spirit still has a front-row seat to watch over the TCTP graduations held each year.



## Himmel Park Program Advances Tennis

TCTP's Himmel Park program focuses on its most advanced tennis players, helping them reach the next level in their game. Attending players come from various high schools in Tucson, including Pueblo, Tucson High, Sunnyside, Catalina, and Palo Verde. According to Bill Wright, these athletes are gaining a tremendous amount in both their tennis skills and in their self-confidence. This Program has operated on Saturdays since September. TCTP is hoping to find someone to help underwrite the Himmel Park Program beginning in January.

## U of A Day

On May 2, TCTP bussed Cavett Elementary students to the University of Arizona. Coach Serena acted as the tour guide, showing the students what they have to look forward to after they graduate from high school. The tour ended with a demonstration from the UA Men's Tennis Team followed by match play on the campus tennis courts. The men's team joined in the fun.

## To Our Donors ... Thank you for helping us continue our mission!

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Barbara Hurlbut  
Graeme Huycke  
Milton "Bud" Minkin  
Eddie Yueh

### In Honor of

Aimee Minkin  
Serena Quarelli  
Serena Rubin



## A Teacher's Letter to TCTP

The tennis program here at Mission View Elementary has been wonderful. My students have enjoyed learning how to play tennis, and I have enjoyed seeing them get some well needed exercise. The tennis program has become a motivating tool at my disposal. My students know that every Thursday they play tennis right after lunch; therefore, they obey my rule of showing up to class on time. This has greatly improved my attendance record.

The tennis coaches have taught my students that you don't have to be the best tennis player in the world; you just have to try your best. This way of thinking has transitioned into the classroom. My students are now motivated to try their best in every assignment they do in class. They are asking more questions, participating more, and motivating each other to do their best.

Mr. Carranza  
5th Grade Teacher  
Mission View Elementary

### TCTP Board Members

John Davis, President

Britt Feldhausen, April Fenton, Susan Grunebaum, Meghan Houk, Martin Mendosa, Jon Miller, Barbara Mondrus, Marsha Rianda, Tom Ryan, Mark Swenson

### Professional Staff

Luis Luna, Victor Cabada, Susan Grunebaum, Nelson Pagne, Brian Ramirez, Serena Quarelli, Miguel Tolano, Bill Wright

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## TCTP - We Bring Kids and Tennis Together!

**To our volunteers ... Thank you!**

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**A Special Tribute**

TCTP wishes to thank Barb Mondrus and Tom Ryan for their many years of support and service as they complete their Board of Directors terms. They have helped TCTP grow and reach many young players over the years. We will miss them.

**Volunteers support TCTP's Programs**

TCTP would like to extend its appreciation to Steve Gall. For over 6 years, Gall has been donating his time teaching many of Tucson's elementary students to play tennis, emphasizing the importance of learning how to be a good sport. Having played tennis for over 57 years in countries as far away as Africa, Gall enjoys being able to share with the kids what has meant so much to him.

Thank you, Steve!

**People interested in volunteering should contact Marsha Rianda: phone 520-990-5683 or email [volunteers@tctpforkids.org](mailto:volunteers@tctpforkids.org). It's fun!**