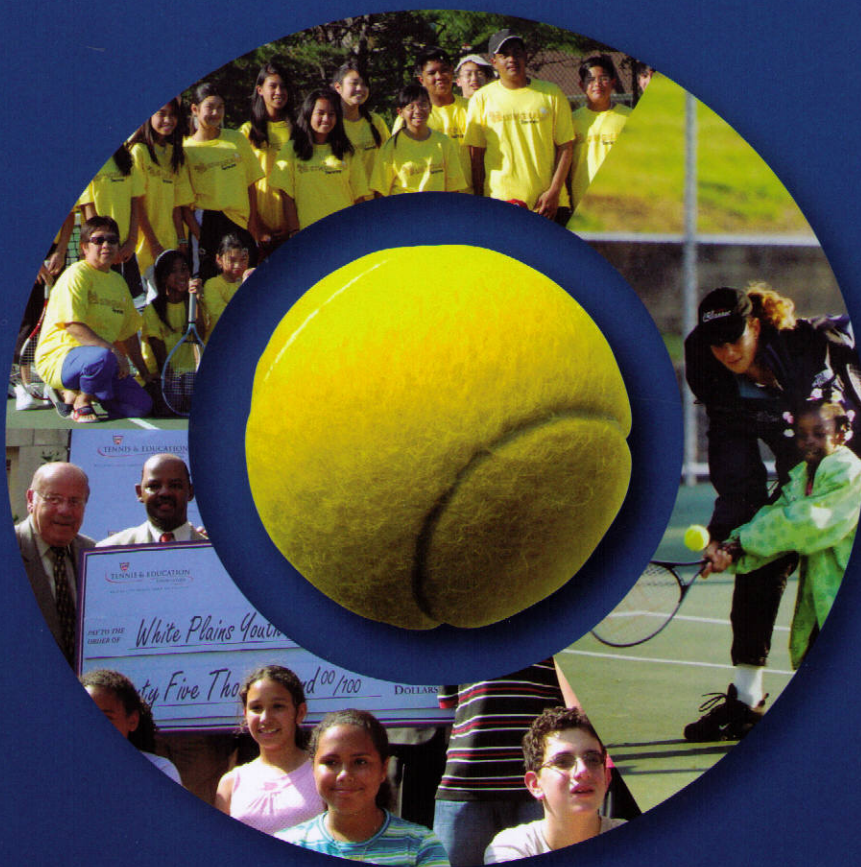


# USTA Tennis & Education Foundation

## 2006-2007 Annual Report



**TENNIS & EDUCATION**  
FOUNDATION

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH TENNIS AND EDUCATION

## Thai Tennis Organization in America, Fairfax, Virginia: Introducing Tennis to All Americans

Tennis is an international sport, and ensuring that young people of diverse ethnic backgrounds here in America have a chance to play is an important Foundation priority. Thai Tennis's goal is to do just that by encouraging the Thai and Asian community in the U.S. to promote and support tennis for both adults and young people. Through their Build for Life Sunday Children's Tennis Clinic and Mentoring program, supported by a Foundation grant, Thai Tennis reaches out to more than 350 youngsters from the Thai community, age three to fifteen, in Falls Church, Virginia, Montgomery County, Maryland, Los Angeles and Dallas. Nearly all of these youngsters are first generation Americans with parents who work long hours building lives in their new country. The program's commitment to providing both a safe place for kids to go and a connection to their Thai heritage and language has made it an important community resource.

***"Our Sunday program is giving our kids a link to their heritage as well as skills in a sport that can be part of their lives forever."***

- George Duangmanee, Managing Director, Thai Tennis

## Break the Barriers, Inc., Fresno, California Opening Tennis to People with Disabilities

Founded by former champion gymnast Deby Hergenrader, whose sister had Down's Syndrome, and her husband Steve, a former New York Yankee, Break the Barriers is committed to dismantling the wall that too often exists between the able and the disabled. Founded 20 years ago and now recognized internationally as a pioneer in the world of inclusion, Break the Barriers brings together the able and the disabled of all ages in free arts and sports programs. With the help of a USTA T&E Foundation grant, Break the Barriers was able to introduce tennis to nearly 500 children in their highly successful "Buddy Program."

***"Our objective was to celebrate all levels of victories and achievements by bringing able-bodied and disabled children together through the sport of tennis. It was a wonderful experience for everyone: children learned to help one another, and enjoy an awesome sport that builds their self-esteem while they are having fun. It also helped them become stronger and more physically fit. It was a win/win for everyone!"*** - Deby Hergenrader

## Working with the Ford Foundation to Build Community

In 2007, the Ford Foundation awarded the USTA, through its National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) in partnership with the USTA Tennis & Education Foundation, a \$400,000 grant for a new initiative, "Community Building Through Tennis." Along with additional funding of \$350,000 invested by the USTA T&EF, the chapters themselves and the USTA's Community Tennis Division, this 18-month pilot project supports NJTL programs designed to bring together people from varied backgrounds in neighborhoods experiencing rapid economic and social change. The four NJTL Chapters selected for the project are Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis and Education, Philadelphia, PA; MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation, Jacksonville, FL; Milwaukee Tennis & Education Foundation, Milwaukee, WI; and Tenacity, Inc., Boston, MA.



1. Thai Tennis Organization in America 2. Representatives of all four programs met in Philadelphia in Spring, 2007 to discuss plans for their respective projects.