



## **2019 ACTIVITIES:**

### **Give Back to the Community**

#### **Inclusive Playing Opportunities:**

In the summer of 2018, TTA and Evan Enquist (the University of Alabama Wheelchair Tennis coach) started the Up Down League. We had our 2<sup>nd</sup> season in the summer of 2019. We made it a fixed partner league this year. There were 3 courts each week. The season ended with a social that included dinner and awards for all players.

TTA sponsored \$4,000.00 in scholarship money for the 2019 Alabama Open ITF Futures Wheelchair tournament. Five juniors were awarded scholarships up to \$500.00 each to help with travel and tournament expenses to play in the 1<sup>st</sup> junior division in the Wheelchair IFT. We also provided welcome gifts including a cooler with the TTA logo, with water bottles, protein bars, and cooling towels.

TTA was a Gold Sponsor for the Spring Swing Tournament in April for 2017, 2018 and 2019. This is a fundraising tournament that includes an up down division and is hosted by the University of Alabama Wheelchair team to help fund their travel costs. The TTA board sponsored a bowling team in 2018 and had a team in 2019 comprised of board members for another Alabama Wheelchair Tennis team fund raiser.

TTA was approached in early summer 2017 by Stillman College, a historically black liberal arts college founded in 1876, to help them open their courts to the community. They had a tennis program and due to funding constraints had to cancel it. In 2018, Stillman opened their courts to TTA members to use at any time. In 2019 we taught tennis to the Benjamin Barns YMCA after school children on the Stillman courts. We had 23 participants in 6 sessions. We also had Net Generation play days at Stillman on Saturdays in May through July and had a total of 35 participants.

Stillman also hosts an Upward Bound program with 130 students ages 13-18 attending for 6 weeks in the summer and living on campus. In 2018, TTA offered weekly lessons for 20 students that were interested in learning tennis. TTA donated rackets, balls and hoppers to the program so students could continue to play during the week. There was scheduled tennis time for these students. In 2019, we had 12 students participate in the program. They were provided new tennis shoes, had guest speakers, and the lessons were taught indoors at Tuscaloosa Tennis Center. We had sessions twice a week during the month of June. We ended the session with a tournament that included prizes. Refreshments were also served.

In the summer of 2019, TTA, TTC, and Adaptive Athletics partnered to bring tennis to individuals with intellectual disabilities. TTA applied for a grant for training and instructions. Cee Jai Jones and Jim Hamm from USTA Southern conducted the training for 9 individuals including tennis pros and interested volunteers. We had 3 athletes from Eagles Wings participate. We started beginning tennis lessons in the fall of 2019 with 7 athletes from Eagles Wings. We applied for and received a grant from USTA to pay for instructors and we have a pool of 21 volunteers who assist in this twice a week activity.

In November, TTA decided to host a fundraiser with USTA Tuscaloosa to help raise money for the University of Alabama Wheelchair Tennis Team's new facility. The name of the event was Beyond the Court. The team is within the College of Education. The College donated \$2,500 to cover the costs of player gifts, the player and patron party and food. We raised additional funds by having patrons name the courts. USTA Tuscaloosa and TTA committed to raise \$20,000 over 5 years. We had 80 adults and 32 children participate. The tournament was played on the indoor varsity courts. We were able to make an initial donation of \$12,400.

### **Support Local Charities**

TTA has been a sponsor in Druid City Hospital's annual Breast Cancer Tournament from 2016 to 2019 and will be a sponsor in 2020. TTA sponsors a team and gives away tickets to the gala. The team sponsored in 2017 was one of TTA's volunteers and their partner. In 2018 and 2019, the 2.5 winners of the Emily Baker Women's Classic were TTA's team. The gala tickets are given as a drawing to a participant in the tournament.

TTA was a Gold Sponsor in Keith's Classic, a women's tournament with the Community Soup Bowl as the chosen charity in 2019. In 2018, the Humane Society of West Alabama was the chosen charity. In 2017, the chosen charity was Caring Days.

TTA participated in the Tuscaloosa Tinsel Trail from 2016 – 2019. TTA decorates a tree in a tennis theme. This event benefits Tuscaloosa's One Place. Tuscaloosa's One Place is a family resource center that empowers people to achieve their full potential. They provide resources to promote self-sufficiency, strengthen families, and prevent child abuse and neglect; thus, improving the quality of life for all members of the community.

TTA was a sponsor for Northridge High School Tennis Team fund raiser.

### **Youth Tennis Programs**

#### **Net Generation Elementary School in School Tennis**

TTA restarted the youth program in 2016 using Rocket Tennis. TTA started in 4 elementary schools and focused on the after-school programs. As the program progressed and expanded, the programming moved away from after school and moved to working with the schools to hold tennis lessons during PE. Since the rollout of USTA's Net Generation program TTA moved from using Rocket Tennis to using Net Generation Curriculum.

In the fall of 2017, we partnered with Tuscaloosa's Parks and Recreation (PARA) to hire tennis instructors. TTA volunteers and PARA employees taught tennis in 6 elementary schools reaching 490 children. TTA reimburses PARA for 100% of the cost plus an administrative fee. In the spring of 2018, TTA and PARA were able to go into all 12 city elementary schools and 2 county schools reaching 1,230 children. The program consists of 8 lessons during PE. We use a mixture of PARA employees and volunteers, and each instructor works with 6-8 children. The following fall and spring we will work with a subset of those children during PE and offer 8 lessons. We plan to work in smaller groups in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades and each spring introduce 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to tennis. TTA registers the PE programs in Net Generation so the schools can get the equipment packs. The equipment packs that TTA receives are also donated to the schools.

In addition to lessons in the schools, TTA offers Play Days working with Tuscaloosa Tennis Center and PARA.

The Net Generation program is funded through USTA Outreach, Diversity and NJTL Grants, the Emily Baker Women's Classic Doubles Tournament, and the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education Spark program. The Spark funding is designated to cover the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the city schools.

In 2019 we added an end of year field trip for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders and Holt 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The field trip was from 9 – 1 pm at TTC over 3 days. We had 6 schools and 135 children participate. It included exhibition matches of middle schoolers, high schoolers, 55+ players, wheelchair players, and/or mixed doubles. The students visited each court and watched and then talked to the players. The final exhibition match was between 2 college players where they demonstrated different serves, and types of strokes. One of the pros explained the different types of strokes. Following the exhibition matches, each school had tournament play to see who would represent the school in the finals. The other children participated in a skills and drills clinic. We served lunch inside and had guests including Big Al (The University of Alabama mascot) and the Alabama head tennis coaches for men, women, and wheelchair teams.

Following the final tournament, each finalist received a certificate for 5 free clinics and a complimentary TTA membership. The winners and runners up also got USTA Southern Medals. Each participant got a take home bag with cookies decorated like tennis balls, USTA Southern gifts, and information on upcoming Net Generation Play Days.

We also held a Championship Day for the finalists to compete for the City/Country Championship. We had 4 schools represented and 10 participants. The top 4 winners got a backpack tennis bag with USTA southern gifts. The winner and runner up also got trophies and a young adult racket. All other participants got string back packs with Southern gifts.

In 2018 we awarded three juniors financial hardship scholarships for lessons or clinics. We worked with AHSAA to ensure that our scholarships would not jeopardize the eligibility of high school players. We revised our criteria and in 2019 we had 3 categories: school startup grants, tournament scholarships, and financial hardship scholarships. In 2019, we awarded 29 scholarships totaling \$16,000.

For the school startup grants, we also offered those players and families complimentary TTA Memberships.

We invited the players from the school startup grants, the children from the Benjamin Barnes YMCA, the finalists from the field days, and a group of children from the Boys and Girls Club to participate at no cost in the first Black Light Tennis event in Alabama using XGLO. We had 100 children participate in that event.

Below are the number of participants and programs in our Net Generation programming:

	2016	2017	2018	2019 YTD
<b>Net Generation</b>				
# Elementary Schools	4	6	14	17
# Participants	99	590	1290	1523
<b>Field Trip</b>				
# Schools	0	0	0	6
# Participants				135
<b>Championship</b>				
# Schools	0	0	0	4
# Participants				10
# of Other Youth Programs	2	2	3	9
# of Participants	71		102	403
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>2071</b>
<b># Scholarships Awarded</b>	0	0	4	29
Start Up Grants				\$1,000
Financial Hardship			\$1,910	\$8,000
Tournaments				\$3,000
Jr Wheelchair				\$4,000
<b>Total</b>			\$1,910	\$16,000

### **Emily Baker Women's Classic**

TTA created the Emily Baker Classic Women's Classic (EBWC) to honor Emily Baker and to create the Emily Baker Scholarship and Youth Tennis fund. A highly respected and dedicated tennis advocate, Emily Baker was one of the original founders of TTA and was the first USTA Coordinator for Tuscaloosa.

In 2017, the tournament's first year, there were 88 participants and 35 patrons raising over \$17,700. In 2019, there were 135 participants, 92 patrons, and over \$41,000 was raised.

In 2019, we added a 65+ division and TTA's President and the USTA Tuscaloosa Coordinator gave away 5 team entries to 2.5 teams. We had 8 teams of 2.5s and 8 teams of 65+. The 55+ and 65+ division is day only and the 18+ has a day and night division.

## **NJTL**

TTA became an NJTL chapter in 2018. Three local youth participated in the NJTL Leadership Camp in 2018 and 2019. Our Net Generation in Elementary School program and after school programs are included in our NJTL activities. In 2019 we sent two of our tennis pros that work in the schools to NJTL training in Colorado. We have begun discussions with the Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama to form a tennis program. We will target the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders that we are already working with as well as other children with the interest to learn tennis.

### **Provide Information to Members and Increase TTA Visibility**

TTA employs a part-time intern to run social media platforms. TTA has Facebook pages, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Examples of what is posted includes reposting and retweeting from local clubs, USTA posts, and University of Alabama Tennis posts. One section of the website has USTA information and events, while another section tracks University of Alabama Tennis events. Our website is [www.tuscaloosatennis.com](http://www.tuscaloosatennis.com).

Weekly emails to members include USTA registration information, any local tennis news, and all upcoming events.

TTA has a presence at local tournaments and University of Alabama matches. There is a table with information about our activities and our membership forms. TTA offers a giveaway that people can take as well as TTA stickers and koozies. Examples of the giveaways include cups with the TTA logo and eye glass cleaners with the logo.

### **Connecting Players and Providing Opportunities to Play**

TTA holds its annual Meet, Greet, and Eat in February of each year. Over 90 people attend. It serves as the annual meeting, a kick off for the tennis season, and an introduction to UA players on the men's, women's and wheelchair tennis teams. The USTA State Champions from Tuscaloosa for the prior year are recognized, highlights of TTA activities for the prior year, and information is provided about upcoming activities and events for all tennis activities in Tuscaloosa.

TTA offers a night league for both men and women. This year there were 2 courts of 2.5 players, 5 courts of 3.0-3.5 women, and 2-4 courts of 3.0-3.5 men and 2 courts of 3.5-4.0 women. We offer 5 six-week sessions. This league is a source of new players for USTA leagues.

On August 28, 2018 TTA and its members participated in the local USTA League Player appreciation night. There were awards, captain recognition, and introduction of new players (new in town, new to playing or those that have started back playing), a dinner, and a mixer. This will be a great way for TTA members to learn more about USTA leagues and meet the players and captains. A calendar of upcoming events was also provided. The 2019 event was held September 3<sup>rd</sup> – local awards were presented from a nomination survey that was sent to all USTA members.

TTA hosted its member appreciation mixer at TTC on November 15.

TTA has a strong partnership with the University of Alabama men's, women's, and wheelchair tennis teams. TTA members are encouraged to attend matches. There is a TTA Day at a men's and women's match where food is provided.

In 2019 TTA applied for a USTA Alabama innovation grant to start a University of Alabama league called Capstone Crush. This league was for faculty, staff, students and spouses. We had 71 individuals sign up. We had four 7.5 teams, two 2.5 teams, and 4 beginners that took lessons. For the 1<sup>st</sup> season, the cost was the tennis link fee of \$3.00. TTA covered the cost of USTA membership, TTA membership, and court cost for individuals that were not current members of TTC.

### **Membership Growth and Appreciation**

TTA ended 2019 with 512 members; there were 418 members at the end of 2018; 342 in 2017; and 289 in 2016. Our 2019 goal was 400.

### **NET GENERATION FIELD DAY Pictures**

Wheelchair National Champion Shelby Barron

Champion Ben Riches Magnet School with Kathryn Hornsby and Michelle Johnston  
Big Al

Cookies

Feet off the ground

Gift Bags

Holt Finalists

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Alimayo Jordon with Kathryn Hornsby and Michelle Johnston

Black Light Tennis

















# **GLOW IN THE DARK TENNIS**

**July 19, 2019**

**\$20 for a 90 minute session**

**Early registration for  
TTA and CCT Members starting June 1.**

**For all ages and levels.**

**Free to watch!**



Stillman Upward Bound



Emily Baker Women's Classic 2019 LOGO

Emily Baker and MarLa Sayers

Emily Baker and friends

Emily Baker and TTA Board Members

**THE**  
**EMILY BAKER**  
**WOMEN'S CLASSIC**  
A TUSCALOOSA TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT



PRESENTED BY  
THE WHMZ GROUP AT MORGAN STANLEY





