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Urban Squash CLEVELAND



2018-2019 Annual Report



Empowering Youth in Cleveland to Reach Their Potential

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Letter from the Board President and the Executive Director

URBAN SQUASH CLEVELAND: PLAYING FROM STRENGTH. THANKS TO YOU.

Urban Squash Cleveland students are playing from strength -- on and off the court -- and we have you to thank for that! Our program is strong because of your generosity. We will grow this year from 40 to 52 team members while maintaining the close, personal engagement among our staff, volunteers and team that makes Urban Squash Cleveland feel like family.

Our academic curriculum is top notch. It includes coding, financial literacy, SAT/ACT prep and, newly launched with our partner, Spice Field Kitchen, "SquasHealth: planting seeds; growing champions," a program that instills healthy nutritional habits for life. When the new MetroHealth Clinic joins us on the Urban Community School campus in 2020, we will partner with their providers to improve our kids' health and wellbeing. Meanwhile, enrichment opportunities abound with frequent sessions on character and leadership development and trips to The Ohio State University, Amherst, Williams, Yale, and Kenyon colleges; and urban squash programs in Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Detroit. New this year, we will travel to the World Squash Team Championships, and the historical and cultural attractions, in Washington, D.C. This is only possible through the work of our growing corps of regular program volunteers. What a difference their consistent presence makes in the lives of our youth!

On court our students are positive, focused and highly engaged. Most encouraging, kids at every level are stepping up to show younger ones the way: 6th graders are helping 4th and 5th graders; high school students are guiding middle school students; and our college students frequently return to work as interns, volunteer and encourage our high school students towards self-reliance and higher education. In 2018-19 competitions, our team began to thrive. Elijah Dorroh finished 5th in the Boys U-15 Individual Urban Nationals (A Division); Alisha Fluker won the Girls U-15 Individual Urban Nationals (B Division); and our Girls U-15 Team won the Urban Team Nationals (B Division).

All of our high school graduates are pursuing higher education at Case Western Reserve, Ohio University, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, University of Toledo, Fisk University, Lorain Community College and Cuyahoga Community College. Some of our High School team members study at University School, Laurel School and St. Martin de Porres.

Our facility at West 47th and Lorain Avenue is home to a welcoming community of squash enthusiasts. Urban Squash Cleveland now houses a fast growing, accessible squash club on the near West Side that features beginner and intermediate players as well as some of the strongest players in Northeast Ohio, who are drawn to the highest quality courts and best club value in the region. We are excited about the club's word of mouth growth, honored by the Cleveland Skating Club's holding Professional Squash Association tournament matches on our all glass court, and pleased to host regular, weekend competitions with other Squash & Education Alliance programs.

Our finances are solid. Each of our Board members contributes \$5,000 or more each year to our annual fund. Our Racquets Rally raised more than \$180,000 in 2019. We are operating our program to generate a modest, annual surplus, using that to build a reserve for operating expenses, and eventually, to add to our endowment. In time, conservative annual draws on our endowment will fund a significant portion of our operations for generations to come. That said, this annual appeal is critical; we count on your continued generosity to make this successful program available to more Cleveland youth. We would love to have you visit us at 4701 Lorain Avenue, join our club, volunteer on court or in class, and see firsthand what makes Urban Squash Cleveland special in our families' lives.

Until then, we think these words, from a parent, say it well:

"USC means giving the youth in our community a chance to experience something different. Having my child take pride in belonging to such an outstanding program with awesome support is really incredible. Urban Squash Cleveland means family to me."

Thank you for your generous support of the Urban Squash Cleveland family!

Sincerely,



Joe Juster
Board Chair



Iago Cornes
Executive Director

WE HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR OUR SUCCESS.



What is Urban Squash Cleveland?

Urban Squash Cleveland ("USC") is a youth development organization that empowers children in Cleveland to reach their potential through academic support, the sport of squash and enduring life skills.

Our program is designed to prepare students for the future. Academic and squash sessions take place six times per week at USC's Youth Development Center.

Squash: Through regular squash practice and competitions, students' passion for the sport helps them develop healthy habits, endurance, coordination, physical and mental awareness, hard work and discipline. The fascinating game is a wonderful vehicle that helps open doors and connects our team with meaningful opportunities for personal growth.

Academics: Students engage in homework help, literacy development, financial skill-building, ACT & SAT tutoring, and college support as they cultivate a lifelong love of learning and pursue meaningful post-secondary opportunities.

Enrichment: Team members participate in community service, field trips, internships, camps, and travel to cities and colleges across the country as they form relationships with mentors, volunteers and one another.

USC is a partner of the Squash & Education Alliance (www.squashandeducation.org) which oversees 22 other programs nationwide and 5 programs internationally. 96% of urban squash students who stay in an SEA partner program graduate high school and enroll in post-secondary schools.



Currently serving a total of 52 students in Cleveland from between 4th and 12th grades, Urban Squash Cleveland plans to grow steadily over the next seven years to ultimately serve a total of 100 children each year.



Academic Advancement

Congratulations to the class of 2019! We are excited to celebrate Kyra Shaw, Pratistha Mishra, Taylor Ottrix, and Areyanna Gilbert who graduated from Cleveland School of Science and Medicine at John Hay in June. We can't wait to see these incredible team members thrive and enjoy their next adventures. As a result of their hard work, this group of talented individuals collectively earned \$73,265 in merit-based scholarships to attend college.



Kyra Shaw

College/University: Fisk University
Major: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Career Goal: Surgeon
Fact: Kyra earned the prestigious Presidential Scholarship to Fisk University.

"Urban Squash Cleveland has given me the opportunity to connect with a different part of my community because I feel like the East and West sides are very divided. I love the academic help that USC provides. Finally, I really enjoy playing squash because it gives me an athletic outlet and a way to disconnect from the stress of school."

Pratistha Mishra

College/University: John Carroll University
Major: Chemistry
Career Goal: Medical Practitioner
Fact: Pratistha was born and raised in Nepal, moving with her family to the United States six years ago.

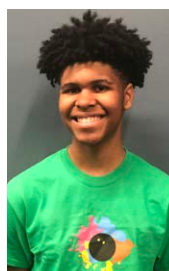


Taylor Ottrix

College/University: University of Toledo
Major: Biology with a concentration in Neuroscience
Career Goal: Physician
Fact: Taylor is an avid member of the mock trial community, participating as a college student.

Areyanna Gilbert

College/University: University of Toledo
Major: Biology
Career Goal: Physician
Fact: Areyanna joined the Black Student Union at the University of Toledo.



Elijah Dorroh

- Sophomore at University School playing number 2 on the varsity squash team

"Urban Squash Cleveland is a strong knit family because we all get along and try to help each other with different challenges. It is a fun outlet after school that makes it easier to complete your homework, have fun with your friends, and play squash."

Dariel Murdock

- 5th grade student at Urban Community School

"Urban Squash Cleveland means a lot to me because it helps me with my academic work and I'm getting more athletic. I'm also moving around more and the program has helped me make more friends."



Community Service

Urban Squash Cleveland team members completed community service projects at Spice Acres, The Gathering Place, Teach For America, and The Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



Fundraising

The 2018-2019 academic year was the strongest year to date for USC on all fronts, including financially. In addition to Capital Campaign donations, and funds received through activities at the Youth Development Center, USC raised a total of \$350,000, ending the year with a surplus.

Fundraising Events

- Racquets Rally and Grand Opening - \$186,481**
- USC Board Contributions - \$82,800**
- Cleveland Tournaments Contributions - \$35,500**
- Corporate Contributions - \$6,000**
- Foundation Grants - \$11,000**
- General Public Contributions - \$28,145**

Programming sessions, enrichment activities and events are stronger and more efficient in our new home. Furthermore, the community of squash enthusiasts in Cleveland is growing thanks to USC's facility.

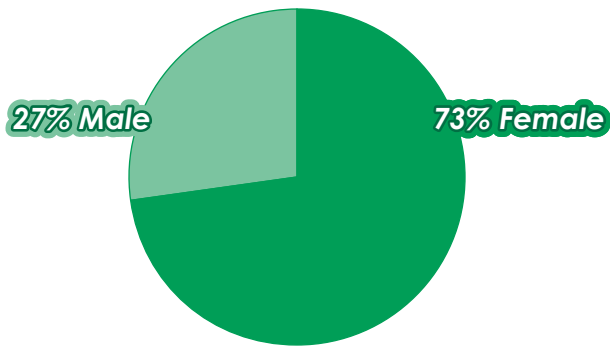


Academic Achievements:

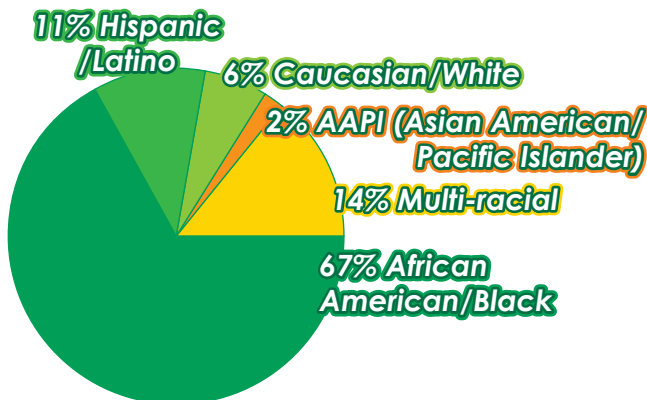
- *On average, last year, USC students made 2.0 years of growth in math and 1.6 years of growth in reading (as measured by the NWEA MAP assessment).*
- *End of Year GPA Average: 3.31 (B+)*
- *100% of USC alumni have graduated from high school.*
- *100% of USC alumni are enrolled in college.*

Demographic Information

Student Genders



Student Race/Ethnicity



Program Information

Out of Town Trips

- Oberlin College
- Cincinnati (Cincinnati Squash Academy)
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Steel City Squash)
- Columbus, Ohio (Ohio State University)
- Toledo, Ohio (The Toledo Club)
- Detroit, Michigan (Racquet Up Detroit)
- Buffalo, New York (716 Squash)
- Williams College (Urban Individual Nationals)
- Amherst College (Urban Individual Nationals)
- New Haven, Connecticut (Urban Team Nationals)
- Kenyon College (Urban Midwest Championships)

Local Squash Focused Opportunities

- Cleveland Classic
- University School Scrimmages
- Rock & Roll Tournament
- Silver CSC Squash Tournament
- Tavern Club Doubles Tournament
- USC Junior Midwest Tournament
- Cleveland Skating Club Open
- Cleveland Skating Club Clinics
- Turkey Trot Squash Tournament
- Cleveland Racquet Club
- Midwest Tournament

Summer Field Trips & Opportunities

- Aspire (Hathaway Brown Camp)
- Internships at Cleveland Clinic
- Spice Acres
- MLB All-Star Game Play BallPark
- The Gathering Place
- Case Western Reserve University
- Gavin Jones Squash Camp at Cleveland Racquet Club
- Camp Pemigewasset
- Reading Camp Cleveland
- Play: CLE
- Lakewood Park
- Teach For America
- Cleveland State University
- The Foundry





Enrichment Activities



Racquets Rally



11 out of town trips



Grand Opening



One year in the life of Urban Squash Cleveland



Success on the Squash Court



Summer Camps



Cleveland Skating Club PSA Tournament



480 hours of squash and academic sessions



End of Season Celebration



Welcome to the team ceremony



Community Service

WE HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR OUR SUCCESS

A most sincere thank you to the following individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations for their generous support during the July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 fiscal year. Together, you made 2018-19 a truly successful one for Urban Squash Cleveland. Your support makes all the difference, and allows us to grow in number while embarking on new, exciting projects for our team.

\$15,000 +

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* Indicates donors who also supported tournaments in the Cleveland squash community benefiting USC

**A heartfelt
 thank you
 to all of you!**



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Entrepreneurship Preparatory Schools:
Willard, Cliffs and Woodland Hills
The Cleveland School of Science and
Medicine at John Hay
Spice Field Kitchen
The University School
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Cleveland Skating Club
Yoga Roots
Pisanick Partners
RAKE
Ghostlight Productions
College Now
The Gathering Place
X-Block Design Lab High School
The Whole Kid
Young Entrepreneur Institute

Join Our Club!

Become A Member For \$50 Or 8 Volunteering Hours Per Month

Urban Squash Cleveland is a youth development organization that empowers children to reach their potential. In addition to mentoring our kids during USC programming, you can enjoy the following activities in the new building! Become a member and sign up for...

Grand Prix

Junior event where kids play squash with players of similar abilities

Champions League

Three player team event

Casual Squash Play

Sign up and enjoy meeting squash players of similar abilities

Clinics and Lessons

Our coaches deliver high quality squash instruction

Squash and Yoga

Enjoy sessions that combine these two amazing disciplines

Partnerships

We also host professional development meetings, social gatherings and conferences



Presenting SquasHealth



A collaboration between Spice Field Kitchen and Urban Squash Cleveland, we are proud to present SquasHealth. Planting Seeds. Growing Champions.

SquasHealth is a holistic and wholesome program that features:

- Team Retreat at Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- Academic curriculum focused on the connection between culture, health, food, and the environment
- One-of-a-kind culinary and agriculture experiences throughout the year

This program strengthens the physical, emotional, and behavioral health of students.



Getting Involved

You may support the kids of USC by donating online at www.urbansquashcleveland.org, by mailing a check through the enclosed envelope, by volunteering or by donating goods or services in any way you think would be helpful to the children of Urban Squash Cleveland.

- To volunteer, please contact Katie Kohn at katie@urbansquashcleveland.org or by phone at 216-269-4106.
- If you're interested in visiting the YDC and learning more about empowering Cleveland youth, please contact Iago Cornes at iago@urbansquashcleveland.org or by phone at 216-315-2258.

**Visit us at 4701 Lorain Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio 44102 and at
www.urbansquashcleveland.org**





**Urban Squash
Cleveland**

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