



RecTennis Summer Camps Marks a Decade of Serving Up Tennis in the Pacific Northwest

Ten years ago, in 2014, the United States Tennis Association Pacific Northwest Section (USTA PNW) launched its first RecTennis Summer Camp.

Today, RecTennis is recognized as one of the best youth sports programs offered in the country. Known for its local presence throughout Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Northern Idaho, our non-competitive, inclusive, and affordable camps and after school programs are designed to combat childhood inactivity and the trend of exclusive and expensive youth sports. Through partnerships with local schools, parks, and

community spaces, RecTennis offers recreational-level programs that encourage year-round play for children ages 5-17.

“Today’s youth face significant challenges in staying active,” said Mary Jo Kallgren, Senior Manager of RecTennis Delivery, Quality & Curricula. “RecTennis provides a fantastic opportunity for children to embrace outdoor activities and maintain their physical fitness. We ensure that learning tennis basics is not only enjoyable but also accessible to all skill levels, prioritizing fun as a cornerstone of our mission.”

Since its inception, RecTennis has grown from a limited number of summer camps to a leading provider with over 150 camps and after-school programs across the Pacific Northwest. Serving over 200,000 participants to date, USTA PNW continues to seek funding opportunities to expand RecTennis programming throughout the Pacific Northwest. All RecTennis programs are subsidized by USTA PNW and because there is social, emotional, and physical value in athletic participation, RecTennis also provides need-based scholarships and a sliding fee scale so cost is never a barrier to entry.

“Our primary goal is to provide access to tennis, although our camps help serve a broader objective” explained Kallgren. “Through our camps and classes, we not only foster physical development but also instill valuable lessons in cooperation, effort, and teamwork that extend beyond their education to all aspects of life.”

A new era of RecTennis

RecTennis is currently raising funds for the RecTennis Access Fund, which will help to develop new partnerships to expand programming and ensure scholarship opportunities. Expanded programs include age-specific camp programming, summer tournaments and adaptive tennis summer camps tailored to kids on the autism spectrum.

Play it Forward

News from USTA Pacific Northwest Section

Thanks to an ongoing support of philanthropic gifts from hundreds of supporters --who have donated more than \$47,000 over the past five years to RecTennis programming, with gifts ranging from \$5 to \$1,000--the program has a strong foundation for building a new era of programming. In addition, the RecTennis Program has received several gifts through donor advised funds and community foundation grants totaling more than \$43,000. Among the program's leadership donors are the Mat-Su Health Foundation, Alaska Community Foundation and the Cowlitz Tribal Foundation.

To celebrate RecTennis's ten-year anniversary, USTA PNW is launching a new "\$5 for 5 Years" campaign aimed at expanding RecTennis programs across the Pacific Northwest. The campaign will be highlighted during this summer's Serving Up Scholarships Day, an annual day of giving, which takes place on July 16th. This initiative provides individuals with a unique opportunity to positively impact the lives of children who would otherwise not have the chance to play tennis. Funds raised through the RecTennis Access Fund will be used to increase the program's reach and continue providing life-changing experiences for young people, including:

- Scholarships that provide reduced or free programming for low or income restricted families.
- Free racquets to allow kids to improve and solidify their tennis skills outside of their organized practice time.
- Expanding partnerships with like-minded local community organizations to leverage program strengths, and
- Ensure the game of tennis and its health benefits are available to every child.

Learn more about making a gift to the RecTennis Access Fund [here](#).

Another popular way to give to RecTennis is through the "\$5 for 5 Years" campaign, which encourages donors to pledge \$5 per month for five years. For more information on how you can sign up for the \$5 pledge, contact Monica Baker, mbaker@pnw.usta.com, or download the pledge form [here](#).