

PROGRAM UPDATE AND YEAR IN REVIEW

Greetings to you all, as we look forward to re-starting our programs this summer, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our donors, supporters and friends of Love To Serve! In spite of the 85% reduction in our program participants due to COVID-19, your ongoing support has only proven to validate the need for our program in our communities. Yes, we encountered challenges with running our program virtually, but it opened the door for enhanced delivery methods and new programming strategies and opportunities. During this worldwide crisis, we saw a need to incorporate self-care strategies for youth into our program model. Yoga, meditation and enhanced fitness and strength training were implemented this fall with overwhelming success!

The college readiness component of our program continues to flourish. Through our ongoing efforts to keep students' eye on the prize of obtaining a college education through scholarship assistance, we are very pleased with this year's results. Six (6) of our seniors have received a total of \$993 thousand dollars in scholarship offers and 20% of our students received straight A's this semester. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication to achieve these notable accomplishments.

As we look to this year with much anticipation, we truly need your continued support to ensure our ability to provide outstanding tennis and education programs to Chicago's under-served communities.

These were the notable program highlights:

Skills Gained: Students were provided with a tool box of valuable skills to help manage and navigate the stress and anxiety of attending high school online and the uncertainty of the pandemic and the presidential election. The tools were yoga and meditation for relaxation and kick boxing and High Intensity Interval Training for relieving stress.

Two of our alumni returned to provide advice, encouragement and tips on making a successful transition to college.

Our 2020 year in review showcase was produced, directed and presented by the seniors in the program. Here is the link to view this short 10-minute video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XGzbbjaa3_RLk26cUcMI_u_efByYX_OE/view?usp=sharing

All of our seniors have grown from very shy freshman/sophomores to very articulate, confident and independent seniors that are on track to be successful in college and beyond.

We are very proud of all of our program accomplishments this year in spite of the un-intended consequences of the pandemic. Your continued support is humbly and truly appreciated. Thank you!



Lori James
Executive Director