



opportunities

Capitol Squash

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

The mission of Capitol Squash is to empower youth of Hartford to reach their potential as athletes, students, and engaged citizens.

Capitol Squash strives to provide urban youth with life-changing opportunities through the sport of squash, intensive educational support, mentoring, and community service activities.

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DEAR FRIENDS OF CAPITOL SQUASH,
For Capitol Squash, as for so many not-for-profits, the Covid-19 pandemic has been a very challenging period. But thanks to your generosity, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the dedication of our outstanding staff and volunteers, we have been able to get through the most difficult months. Our kids are back in the classroom and on the courts, and the excitement about being together, about learning, and about the game they are coming to love is palpable and energizing.



One of the greatest things about the past few months has been the ability to plan for the continued growth and vitality of our program. We are excited to announce in this annual report our capital campaign to raise funds to provide us a permanent home within a new addition to the Ferris Athletic Center at Trinity College, which we will share with Trinity's squash teams and students. We hope to raise at least \$3 million dollars to make this dream come true, and we are well on our way to reaching our goal, thanks to generous gifts by a few of our most devoted board members. If you would like to discuss a gift to our campaign, please feel free to reach out to one of us.

Our new Capitol Squash Center will house dedicated classrooms, offices, dressing rooms, a conference room, and squash courts for the use of our students. We are deeply grateful for everything Trinity has provided to us to date—use of their courts for a period of time, a classroom that is usually available to us,

and an area for our staff to have desks. For Capitol Squash to thrive, to grow, and to be sustainable, we now need dedicated space rather than shared space. We believe this new space will allow us to serve twice as many students—our goal is 100—than we do now.

This report provides more details about our campaign and our program. This is an especially exciting year, as our oldest students are, for the first time in our history, applying for college. This is why we exist—to prepare students for successful and happy lives far into the future—and we thank you for the generosity that has propelled us to this point in our history.

With gratitude,

Meg Taylor *Walter Harrison*
Meg Taylor Walter Harrison
Executive Director Board Chair

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CAPITOL SQUASH

Since our founding in 2014, we have had the good fortune to use Trinity College's squash courts and a classroom, but now we have an opportunity to partner with the College to build a new state-of-the-art squash addition to the Ferris Athletic Center. This will include our own dedicated space to develop generations of Capitol Squash students as they prepare for their own collegiate careers and beyond.

This new Capitol Squash Center will enable the program to increase our cohort to 100 students. It will also provide squash courts, teaching and mentoring spaces, and offices that will allow us to become a national model for squash and education programs.

Specifically, our new center will include:

- Seven Capitol Squash dedicated courts for students to compete and practice.



moving forward

- Three state-of-the-art classrooms to accommodate students of a variety of ages, supporting a myriad of academic needs and strengths.
- Private office space for staff and volunteers to meet individually with students and families.
- A conference room that will enable us to hold meetings, host outside speakers, and serve as a small study space when needed.
- Locker rooms solely devoted to Capitol Squash students.
- A private entryway (separate from the campus facility) exclusively for the program.

We are committed to raising a minimum of \$3 million dollars to secure this wonderful space for generations of Capitol Squash students to flourish. A group of early donors to our campaign have brought us nearly to the halfway point.

This is our moment. Please contact us if you are interested in hearing more. We have come a long way in our first seven years. Now we need your help to provide a home for Capitol Squash far into the future.



THE 2020-2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

During the 2020-2021 school year, Capitol Squash maintained constant contact with our 53 students as we shifted to primarily virtual programming. We provided our students a range of support services including tutoring, homework help, fitness sessions, college prep, family support, and tuition assistance.

Through our partnership with Connecticut Children's Medical Center's Pediatric Residency Program, we hosted multiple COVID-19 vaccine information sessions and scheduled 45 vaccine appointments for students and their family members.

As we begin our 2021-2022 school year, we are excited to be back on the courts and in the classrooms at Trinity College. Our first senior class is applying to college this fall and we cannot wait to share our first college acceptances.



BOARDING SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

Capitol Squash students Paw and Nagima were accepted to Suffield and Loomis Chaffee and enrolled this fall as boarding students! Our seven boarding school students attend:

- Westminster School
- The Ethel Walker School
- Westover School
- The Taft School
- The Loomis Chaffee School
- Suffield Academy





SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Our students had the opportunity to attend rigorous Squash + Education Alliance programs such as the Citizenship Tour and camps at the Kent School, Mercersburg Academy, and Phillips Exeter Academy. These opportunities not only gave our students the chance to hone their squash skills and expand their knowledge, but they also allowed them to make connections with their peers from across the SEA network.

Summer 2021 gave us time to connect with students and prepare them for the year ahead. After doing virtual college visits, our rising seniors were excited to be able to visit college campuses in-person and begin visualizing their futures as college students.

CAPITOL CUP: THE PICKLE JAR

Pickleball, the fastest growing sport in America, became an integral part of our 2020-2021 school year. Our students learned pickleball throughout the spring, which gave them a chance to try a new sport, stay fit, and see their friends. After cancelling last year's Capitol Cup due to COVID-19, we were determined to reimagine this year's event. Our pickleball tournament on June 5th raised over \$250,000 to support our program thanks to the generosity of our captains, players, and supporters. A big congratulations to The Hartford Stags and The Hartford Railers for winning the fundraising and tournament trophy, respectively!



making connections



teaching values

DONORS

Capitol Squash is grateful for the following donors who generously contributed to the program between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with any corrections at info@capitolsquash.org

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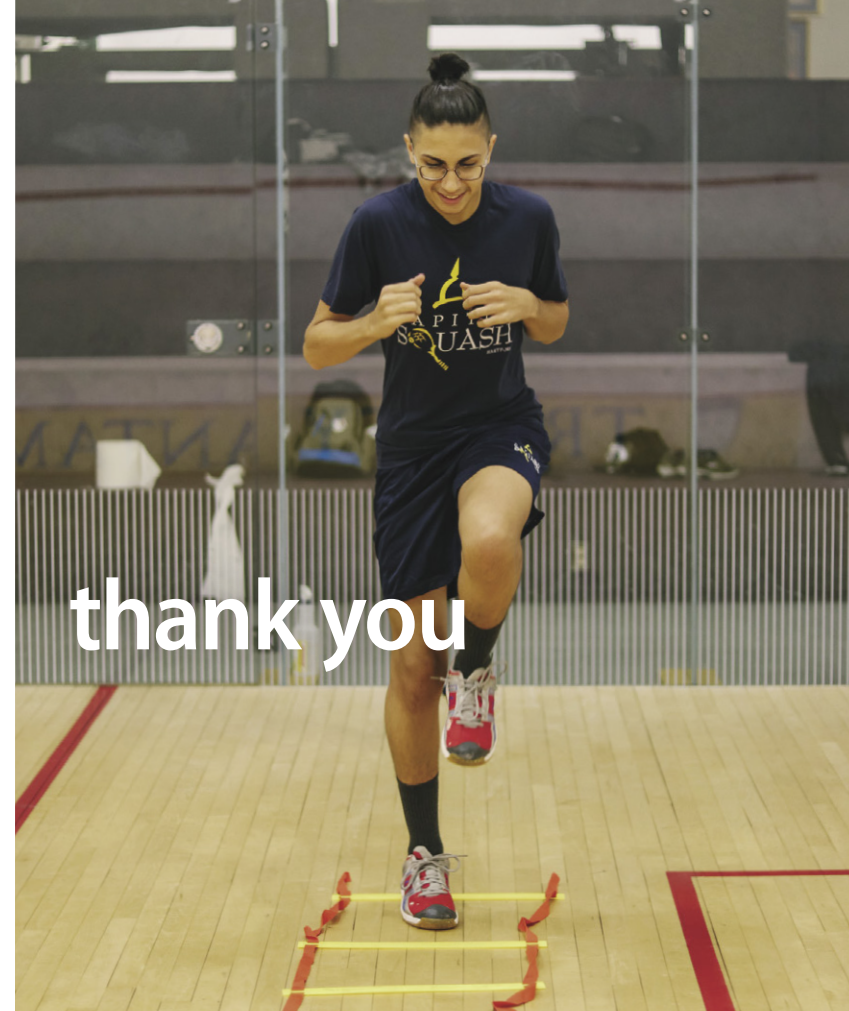
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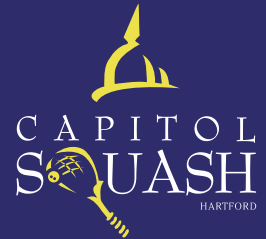
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