



SEEDS OF SUCCESS: GROWING BRIGHTER FUTURES
THROUGH SQUASH AND EDUCATION

CAPITOL
SQUASH

*The 2022-2023
Annual Report*



ABOUT US

Our Mission and Board of Directors

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 youth with life-changing opportunities through the sport of squash, intensive educational support, mentoring, and community service activities.

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A MESSAGE

From the Executive Director



DEAR FRIENDS OF CAPITOL SQUASH,

During the past year, we celebrated a new and noteworthy achievement: Capitol Squash now has middle school, high school, and college students in our program! This milestone reflects our continued commitment and success at helping and empowering young people throughout many years of their formative academic and personal development. The 2022-2023 school year was also our first full year of programming out of the pandemic. Not only were we better able to meet the needs of our students, but it also has meant a return to more competitive squash play, and with it, the opportunity to see our students compete at various levels. A highlight from this year included our younger students placing 2nd and 4th at SEA Individuals, despite having joined just a few years ago.

As a proud Vassar College alum, this year marked a true highlight in my time at Capitol Squash. We had one student complete their freshman year at Vassar, another who started this fall, and a Vassar team compete at the Capitol Cup, whose roster included Vassar's president, Elizabeth Bradley. This felt full circle on a personal level, but also speaks to the

program's ability to create and foster networks of support.

In this annual report, you will read about these highlights from the year, including a spotlight on one family with 3 children that has been involved in the program since 2014. Although related, they have a diverse set of interests and each has forged their own individual path at Capitol Squash. While their story is notable, so is the fact that we currently have 7 sets of siblings participating in our program. This is a testament to our connections with students and families and creating meaningful and longstanding relationships.

Capitol Squash has much to be proud of in 2023 and none of it would be possible without your generosity throughout the year. Whether you volunteer or donate or share with others the ways that Capitol Squash impacts our students and families, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your ongoing commitment and support!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meg Taylor".

Meg Taylor
Executive Director

During the past year, we celebrated a new and noteworthy achievement:

**CAPITOL SQUASH NOW HAS
MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH
SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE
STUDENTS IN OUR PROGRAM!**

PROGRAMMING

The 2022-2023 School Year



Capitol Squash's year-round programming focuses on squash, academics, and opening doors to new opportunities. Students receive squash instruction, match play, and rigorous fitness activities. Capitol Squash provides individual tutoring and homework help as well as high school and college placement support.



1,208
Program Hours



30
Days of Summer Programming



87%
Program Attendance



25
External Summer Placements Including Camps and Academic Programs



47
Fourth-Twelfth Grade Students



7
Post-Secondary Students



\$2,000,000
Over \$2 Million Received In Financial Aid and Scholarships To Date



201
Days of School Year Programming



BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

Through Higher Education



In June 2023, we celebrated our second class of high school graduates. Jackie, Gabe, and Demetrius are joining the class of 2027 at UCONN-Hartford, Vassar College, and Central Connecticut State University, respectively. Our 2022 high school graduates are in their second year of college. Many have continued their participation in squash at the collegiate level, including Ku (Mount Holyoke), Adriana (Vassar), and Julissa (Wesleyan), who all played varsity squash, and Phoebe (UConn) who played club squash. Our students took on exciting leadership roles at their campuses. Julissa served as a New Student Orientation Leader and Ku will be a Resident Advisor this fall.



PASSING THE RACQUET

The Htoo Family

The Htoo family arrived in the United States in 2013 as refugees from Thailand. Ten years later, 3 of the Htoo children are active students in the Capitol Squash program. **WHILE ALL ARE IN OUR PROGRAM, THEY ARE ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT FACETS, REPRESENTING THE DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAPITOL SQUASH CAN OFFER.**

HENRY | Currently a senior, Henry joined as a 4th grader in our first year of programming. Since then, he has consistently ranked among the strongest players in our program.

This year, Henry:

- Participated in SEA's High Performance Team
- Attended College Squash Recruiting Training Camps at Williams and Amherst Colleges
- Attended SEA's Summer Academy at the Kent School
- Volunteered throughout the year with Capitol Squash and Camp KO at Kingswood Oxford School



MOODY | Moody also joined in 4th grade during our second year of programming. Interested in pursuing a career in fashion design and an active member of Model UN, he is currently a junior in high school.

This year, Moody:

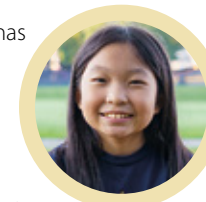
- Won Capitol Squash's top prize, the David Kinsley Award for Sportsmanship
- Attended University of Notre Dame's rigorous pre-college program where he studied sustainability



PA LAE | Only 2 years old when Henry joined, Pa Lae has grown up around the Capitol Squash community. She joined in 3rd grade and has since become a student at Grace Academy, where she is now in the 6th grade.

This year, Pa Lae:

- Placed 5th in the GU13 Division at Individuals Nationals hosted by Deerfield Academy
- Attended SEA's Summer Academy at the Kent School



Left to Right: Moody, Pa Lae, and Henry.

CAPITOL CUP

Forging Support and Opportunity

Capitol Cup 2023 raised over \$341,000 to support Capitol Squash's year-round programming. We are grateful for our title sponsor, RMS Companies/Claire and Randy Salvatore. Thank you to our generous community of players, sponsors, and donors who helped make the event a success! At this year's Capitol Cup we heard remarks from Gabe, a Westminster School senior, who has been a member of Capitol Squash for the past 7 years. He shared his experience moving from Puerto Rico to Hartford and his path to Vassar College, where he matriculated this fall.



"This is about more than just me. My grandmother didn't finish middle school, my mother didn't finish high school. But now I'll be the first in my family to attend college, a sign of progress and opportunity for all of us."

— Gabe, Vassar College, Class of 2027



The Crimson Brewers made their debut at the Capitol Cup, representing the Harvard Crimson and the Vassar Brewers. The team included two notable members: Vassar first-year and Capitol Squash alum, Adriana, as well as Vassar's president, Elizabeth Bradley.



Top: Big Bow Energy made a splash at the event as the first all-women's team to compete at the Capitol Cup. The tournament had the largest number of women compete since its inception in 2014.

Bottom: The competition was fierce for both the squash and fundraising trophies. Team Westy (left) won the squash tournament and Team Corridor (right) not only made it to the squash finals, but also won the fundraising trophy for the second year in a row.

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