

STREETSQUASH STRIDES: A TRIP THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

LOOKING BACK ON WHERE WE BEGAN, WHERE WE ARE NOW,
AND WHERE WE HOPE TO BE IN THE FUTURE



STREETSQUASH

ISSUE NO. 21

2015

20 years of Urban Squash,

200+ students enrolled
in StreetSquash's
After-School Program,
104 active alumni,
18 full-time staff, and
many more years to come!



2015

**Inception of Social
Work Program**

led by our Director of Social Work
along with 2 social work interns



2013

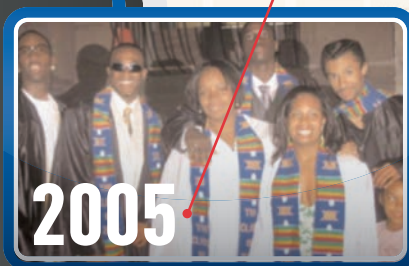
**StreetSquash finds home
at the SL Green StreetSquash Center**



2008

First graduating class

at StreetSquash making up 11 students



2005



1999

StreetSquash is born!

With 2 full-time staff, 24 students,
and 3 borrowed spaces,
StreetSquash embarks on our
first year of programming.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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National Urban Squash and
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A NOTE FROM GEORGE

Last week, after spending most of my day writing grants and working on this newsletter, I finished the evening at StreetSquash by tutoring a group of 7th graders in one of our academic sessions. I left exhausted. Perhaps it's that I am no longer 30 years old, or perhaps it's simply that 7th graders are 7th graders. Either way, I was tired, but also deeply happy. Each time I step on court with a student, or hear about a 12th grader's college application, I am reminded why I started StreetSquash. I love working with kids, and seeing them improve and helping them (hopefully!) along the way.

Over the past 17 years, I have slowly moved away from the classroom, and the kids. I now spend a lot of my time raising funds to keep the program running and working with the Board to plan strategically for StreetSquash's future. I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss those days of schlepping 18 students on the D train to the Harvard Club and once there, getting the kids in and out of the locker rooms as fast as possible so we could get down to work. Sitting at my desk now, overlooking our 8 beautiful squash courts, I marvel at how far we have come, and how much I have learned and grown.

But the one constant over all these years is the challenge of running, and growing, a great youth program. This requires so many elements to go right: hiring and keeping a terrific staff, developing a Board that will fight very hard to push the program forward (and push back on me when needed), making sure that our students and alumni are achieving the goals we have set out for them, and continually finding people and institutions that will financially support the work we are doing. All of this activity, of course, is in the name of the children and families that we serve, and while I now spend a lot of my time on some of these other elements, I always know that my work, and the involvement of many other thousands, comes back to the StreetSquash child and family. I feel deeply blessed to have spent my last 17 years involved in this work, and I am looking forward to many more. ●



GEORGE WITH HIS FIRST COHORT OF STREETSQUASHERS ON THE STEPS OF HARVARD'S WIDENER LIBRARY IN 1999



STREETSQUASH CUP 2015, GEORGE ON COURT WITH STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

FROM THE HARVARD CLUB TO HARLEM:

LIFE AT THE SL GREEN STREETSQUASH CENTER

Picture this: students and tutors, sitting down together at a table to go over homework and prepare for tests. A normal, StreetSquash study session, right? Guess again: look over the balcony, and what do you see? The Harvard Club dining room, a massive, 2-story room full of businessmen and women, and other club members, all sitting down for an evening meal. A dramatic setting, no doubt, to get one's homework done...

StreetSquash alumni love to reminisce about the good old days, when we served apple juice and NutriGrain bars for snack, when we held our award ceremonies at Dallas BBQ and Amy Ruth's, when the entire program could show up for the Breast Cancer Walk in Central Park. StreetSquash windbreakers were all the rage and carrying a giant squash bag to school was a status symbol few could miss. In many ways, life at StreetSquash was a lot simpler then. Students participated in academics and squash and college prep. We were lucky to have space at Thurgood Marshall Academy to run supplemental programs and local grocery stores delivered our snack daily. When there wasn't school or Columbia was closed, New York City hosted our programs: community

service projects, field trips to museums, and team bowling or ice skating were common occurrences.

But as rosy as the good old days seem to have been, nothing can compare to the way StreetSquash has grown since we've had a place to call home. For all the adventures on the subway and memories around the city, we never could have had high schoolers volunteer in middle school academic sessions. We couldn't engage students in counseling, in clubs, and in leadership positions the way we can now. Although students gained exposure to many different people by practicing every day at the Harvard Club, Columbia, and the West

Side YMCA, they never had a place to call their own where it was okay to be a little loud and silly sometimes or a little messy and experimental. Now that we don't have to negotiate shared space, we can set our hours, serving students well into the evening if that's what they need. We can showcase student work on the walls and they can see photos of their peers reflected back at them. Although StreetSquash was always close-knit, nothing can compare to the family atmosphere we have cultivated over the past seven years, since moving to our permanent home, the SL Green StreetSquash Center. ●



StreetSquash alumnae Rakey '10 and Paige '10 in 2007 at the Harvard Club, now graduates of Bates College '14 and Rutgers University '14, respectively

MORE THAN JUST A MENTOR

THE BUDDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KATIE CANGELOSI AND CINDY

I met Cindy when I joined StreetSquash in 2011 as a volunteer. She was in eighth grade then. I was helping the group with their homework and one day I was assigned to work with Cindy. I don't remember exactly what we were working on, but I do know that we hit it off right away. She appreciates my sense of humor (usually) and we can talk about a lot of things and try to work them out together. When I asked her for her view on this, she said, "Our communication is the best – we understand each other. I am comfortable talking to you about everything. You're not just a mentor – you're more". I felt happy; it is so rewarding to be her friend and mentor. I have watched her grow into a mature young adult who is able to handle herself with poise when faced with a variety of situations and is eager to try new experiences and take advantage of new opportunities.

We continued our partnership and worked on assignments and projects together, and we worked hard! Cindy always has an idea of what she wants to do, whether it's to write a poem or make a poster, as we brainstorm ideas for submissions of a project for the various squash tournaments or for school assignments.

As we discuss different topics or questions, we often find our conversations branching off into other areas. For a few years I studied Chinese, so when we had some spare time or were taking a break from homework I taught her to count and to say some things in Mandarin. Sometimes we plan different outings and have seen "Let it Be" and "Annie" on Broadway. I invited her to go see the new Whitney Museum and she invited me to the birthday party of a friend, which turned out to be a huge event with lots of people, lots of

dancing, and lots of food. Sometimes we just go for a walk in Riverside Park.

I like to join Cindy in some of her squash activities, even though I don't play. I watched her in the Urban Nationals Team Tournament at StreetSquash last January and cheered and jumped around as she won a close match. Cindy, of course, had stayed cool and calm throughout the whole game.

One thing we haven't done yet is play squash together. I am counting on her to one day help me learn the game. I don't know when that will happen. She's a very busy person and has many demands on her time from her friends, teachers and teammates and all her commitments to them as well as to her goal of going to college. Even summers are hard, although we do try to stay in touch as much as possible. But one day, we're going to find the time, right Cindy? ●



Cindy receiving the Bulldogs Care Foundation All Star Award for being an exemplary and inspirational student athlete.



Cindy with Katie

STREETSSQUASH STUDENTS AND STAFF REUNITE:

DESPITE DISTANCE AND TIME APART, STREETSSQUASH BONDS PROVE TO BE EVERLASTING

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRISTIAN HENZE – SQUASH DIRECTOR 2010 – 2012

After spending two remarkable years working as the 6th and 7th grade Squash Director for StreetSquash from 2010 – 2012, I moved to San Francisco and started as an early employee at a financial technology firm in the Bay Area called Funding Circle. Despite living across the country, I have been able to stay in touch with a number of my students through a variety of forums (phone calls from Djeneba '16, text messages from Richard '17 and Igor '16, emails from Trevor '17 and several visits to the StreetSquash building for Saturday practices while I was in New York City).

I've loved being in San Francisco and building a career at Funding Circle. Given my own experiences over the past three years, I offered to host a few of my former students to experience San Francisco.

Two students were chosen to spend the weekend with me this past summer: rising 11th grader, Trevor Laing and rising 12th grader, Igor Ramirez. Trevor and Igor were in the 6th and 7th grade, respectively, when I first met them. It would be slightly misleading to say that Trevor and Igor were the two easiest students to work with initially; sometimes stubborn, occasionally wild, and always ready to wreak havoc amongst their teammates. But it was their dedication to self-improvement during my time at StreetSquash that made me want to introduce them to San Francisco and more specifically, the Funding Circle team.

The weekend with Trevor and Igor was the best experience I have had over the past three years. There were many highlights - San Francisco Giants game, go-karting, biking over the Golden Gate Bridge, swimming in the Pacific Ocean - but one in particular stood out for me:

Upon arriving on the first day, Trevor and Igor, seemingly impervious to jetlag, piled into my car and we headed over to my office to spend the afternoon with five senior members

of the Funding Circle team, including Co-founder and US Managing Director, Sam Hodges, the strategic brains behind the rapid emergence of this new industry.

Igor and Trevor had researched the company and the industry thoroughly before their trip. They were scheduled to chat with Sam for twenty minutes. The conversation lasted over an hour with Igor and Trevor engaging in a highly sophisticated conversation, lobbing in questions left and right about his experiences founding and growing a tech start-up. Their intellectual curiosity, astute questions and responses blew me away.

I am so proud of what incredible people Trevor and Igor have grown to be. To see first-hand the profound impact StreetSquash has had on them the past five years was extraordinarily gratifying. I absolutely love that StreetSquash continues to motivate and push their students to reach their fullest potential. And the students in turn, continue to respond so positively to the program. I'm grateful that I've been able to play a small role in Trevor and Igor's lives, and cannot wait to see what lies ahead for them. ●

CHRISTIAN, COAST TO COAST, WITH HIS STREETSQUASHERS



13 year-old Igor, now 17, on a team trip to Coney Island with Christian and his fellow teammates



Christian brought Trevor (center) and Igor (right) to all the best San Francisco attractions, including a trip to a Giants game!



Christian with his former students, Djeneba (left) and Joetta (right), now both seniors in high school



Christian with Igor and Trevor after a challenging and rewarding bicycle ride across the Golden Gate bridge

FROM THE EYES OF A VOLUNTEER

JOE KAZEMI, STREETSQUASH VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE, OPENS UP ABOUT THE GROWTH AMONG STREETSQUASH, THE STUDENTS, AND EVEN WITHIN HIMSELF



Joe Kazemi with his mentee, Daequan, StreetSquash '11, at the 2015 Tournament of Champions in Grand Central Terminal

StreetSquash never ceases to amaze me. As I enter my fifth year volunteering for the program, I have witnessed tremendous growth since I began – growth in the program, the organization, the staff, and most importantly, in the students themselves. I am constantly impressed as I watch the students move up in grades, develop as squash players, and mature into active agents in charge of their own learning. They chart their own course.

Consider Emma, class of 2016. I was helping with squash practice and was so impressed by how fit and strong of a player Emma has become. She is now playing “textbook” college-level squash. Only a few years ago, her sense of self, her personality, her academic skills, and her squash game were all still developing. Emma

later told me how she has committed to playing squash competitively for a college team. She said she wants to follow the path of Brandy ('14, Mount Holyoke '18), Mawa ('14, Connecticut College '18) and so many other StreetSquash students who have gone on to play at college. Emma has shown astonishing growth, yet it is growth that I have come to think of as predictable and expected, maybe even formulaic, at StreetSquash.

Consider also, other StreetSquash alums that are now in college, whom I had the privilege to get to know as high school students. They often return to StreetSquash - I see them through a different lens now. I see them as colleagues and younger friends that my family and I learn from. Take Amar, StreetSquash '13, once a student who I worked with in

the classroom is now teaching my young 9-year old daughter and me about computer programming, app development, and game design. Or Jordano, StreetSquash '09, teaches us about his work in retail, his upbringing, and his love and mastery of languages. Then there is Daequan, StreetSquash '11, a student I have worked with closely over the past year. Daequan teaches us about his squash coaching, his interest in finance, and his life as an ambitious young man.

What has impressed me the most about StreetSquash's growth is how it has been able to maintain, and even scale up, its warm and caring family atmosphere. When most organizations grow, they go through growing pains. StreetSquash, from what I have seen, has only been going through growing gains. ●

GROUPS GALORE

It began with Girls Group in 2011. An “extracurricular activity” at StreetSquash – a part of program outside of academics and squash where StreetSquash girls had the opportunity to discuss among each other the cultural goings on of women in the world. Nearly five years later, and as a core part of our Social Work Department, groups have now grown beyond our wildest dreams. With almost fifteen groups and extracurricular activities, StreetSquash offers our students a range of outlets to engage and excel in their community and within themselves. ●

2015 GROUPS:

Boys Group
Early Stages, Broadway Musicals
Girls Group
Identity
League
Peer Mediation
Peer Mentoring
Pride
Student Leadership Council
Teen Nights



SUMMER IN THE CITY!

SUMMER DISCOVERY

For many after school programs, summer means winding down, closing up shop, and taking a well-deserved break from the students we have gotten to know and love over the course of the school year. StreetSquash, as with most aspects of our program, does things a little differently. At the SL Green StreetSquash Center, summer only means one thing: Summer Discovery.

After 12 years in existence, the Summer Discovery program has evolved into a seven-week long program for rising 6th through 9th grade students in Harlem. From core lessons on urban planning, statistics of baseball and the music industry, to hands-on elective classes such as painting, improv, photography, Chinese lessons or of course squash, our StreetSquashers keep their minds and bodies active throughout the entirety of the summer.

This summer we introduced the StreetSquash Games – a week long competition among the four color teams. Competitions included: racquet relays, Jeopardy, tethered sports, life size chess and more. After the Orange Team brought home top honors, the games concluded with our end of summer barbeque – a staple event for Summer Discovery. StreetSquash staff unanimously agreed that this was the best summer yet – we have set the bar quite high for 2016! ●



Summer Discovery 2015



Summer Discovery 2003



Island Hopping! Every Friday StreetSquash students went on a field trip to gain a deeper understanding of the core program they learned that week. From kickball at Governor's Island, to baseball on Coney Island, to a scavenger hunt on Ellis Island - there was no shortage of adventure for our StreetSquashers.



Suejona, StreetSquash '19, spent her summer with a Fresh Air Fund host family in Ithaca, New York



Benito (second from left), StreetSquash '19, on the Poplar River in Manitoba with his fellow campers from Camp Kooch-i-Ching

SUMMER SPENT IN 'FRESH AIR'

While StreetSquash boasts an impressive amount of summer programs to keep our students active and engaged in the summer (Summer Discovery, Summer Quest, Beginning College Program, and so much more), there are some

things we simply cannot offer our StreetSquashers, such as fresh air outside of the city.

This summer, over 90 of our StreetSquash students traveled across the country to a range of summer camps and pre-college

programs, the most in our history.

From old friends such as Camp Dudley and Camp Herrlich, to new partnerships with Camp Kooch-i-Ching, our students traveled wide and far this year. ●



First annual StreetSquash camping trip in the Pocono Mountains with our high schoolers. 48 students, 12 staff, and 1 amazing weekend!



Alfred, StreetSquash '20, on the Turtle River in Southern Ontario during a Camp Kooch-i-Ching excursion



Michael (third from left), StreetSquash '19, (third from right) and Marvyn (far right), StreetSquash '19, (first from left) enjoy a day of field games with their friends at Camp



Kaiya, StreetSquash '20, enjoying summertime at Camp Herrlich in upstate New York

SUMMER SCHOOL NEVER

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR STUDENTS WHO STUDIED THE SUMMER AWAY



This summer I had the wonderful opportunity of going to The Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut.

At the summer program, I met many great students who became some of my closest friends. I took four classes; Early American History, Literature and Composition II, Psychology, and Studio Art. I enjoyed all of the classes I took because they were all

challenging and they also taught me so much I did not know about myself. One of the most difficult yet rewarding classes was Early American History. Although I had to do more research, debates and papers in just five weeks than I have ever had to do in my life, it did not stop me from excelling in the class.

Outside of class, I had the opportunity to play squash every day - it was amazing. At first it was difficult because I was not used to playing with other players who were not a part of my team. I missed the comfort and familiarity of my teammates at StreetSquash. Over the course of the summer, however, I learned from peers on court and began to enjoy it more and more each day I played.

In addition to classes and squash, we had weekend trips where we visited

different cities and states and even a day trip to Six Flags! I enjoyed all of these trips, especially because it was my first time doing most of these things.

My favorite part about being at Taft was getting to meet many different people from around the world. For example, my roommate was from Saudi Arabia and I found it fascinating getting to know different things about her, and how her culture influences her. While it was difficult being away from home, I know this was an important stepping stone on my way to college.

Overall this experience changed my life in many ways. I have learned so much about people and the world around me; being at Taft was one of the best summers I have had yet.

Trina, StreetSquash '19 •



SOUNDED SO GOOD!



I never thought I would enjoy college -- until I spent two weeks at Syracuse University Summer College. Every second I spent there was a moment to remember, whether it was eating food in the dining hall with my friends, in class frustrated because I wasn't making progress, or struggling to go to sleep at night thinking about the adventure I would have the next day. It all started when I arrived on the 5th of July around 11 in

the morning; my stomach was in knots and I didn't have much of an appetite. I didn't know what to expect from this program--the different personalities of my classmates, the amount of classwork and length of classes, and the nightly activities that were planned--so in this case I went along with the flow of things. I really started to get a nice welcoming feeling when the floor meeting occurred. We all had a chance to introduce ourselves and learn interesting facts about one another; some of the facts were memorable and it was the first step of getting to know my floormates. By the end of the day, I was comfortable with everyone and I knew I was going to have a wonderful time.

Monday was my first day of class and really getting to know my classmates. They were extremely easy to get along with which eased my nerves. Everyone was giggly, loved to talk, open-minded and willing to listen, loud but not too

crazy--my ideal group of friends. Our conversations were limitless - when we were together there was never a dull moment. Although classes were more difficult than I have ever experienced, I was able to conquer my courses with the help and support of my new friends. I couldn't wait to spend the rest of my 2 weeks with them.

Every other night was a matter of who to be with and where to go. I befriended people who are unlike anyone I have ever met. I learned not to use my first impressions of people when meeting new people because they could be wrong and that is how you miss out on knowing amazing people. I am very thankful that I had an experience like this. I will never forget it.

Khala, StreetSquash '16 •

1. Capitol Squash Exchange Trip, Hartford, CT
2. University of Rochester Pre-College Program - Rochester, NY
3. Syracuse University Summer College Program - Syracuse, NY
4. Camp Dudley - Westport, NY
5. Brown University Pre-College Program - Providence, RI
6. Christodora Summer Experience - Berkshires, MA
7. Williams College Squash & SAT camp - Williamstown, MA
8. Phillips Exeter Academy (Upper School and Access Exeter Summer Program) - Exeter, NH
9. Cornell University Pre-College Program - Ithaca, NY
10. NUSEA Deerfield Summer Elite Squad - Deerfield, MA
11. NUSEA Stanford Summer Squad - Palo Alto, CA
12. Camp Kooch-i-Ching - International Falls, MN
13. Baltimore Squash Exchange trip - Baltimore, MD
14. Denver Urban Doubles National Tournament - Denver, CO
15. Denver Squash Exchange trip - Denver, CO
16. The Taft School - Watertown, CT
17. Universal Squash Camp - England
18. Camp Keewaydin - Salisbury, VT
19. Fresh Air Fund - various locations
20. NUSEA Citizenship tour - various locations
21. NUSEA Virginia Summer Squad - Charlottesville, VA
22. Princeton Squash Camp - Princeton, NJ



STREETSQUASH CUP EXPLOSIVE GROWTH

EDWARD L. SHUGRUE III – BOARD MEMBER AND STREETSQUASH CAPTAIN

The growth rate of the StreetSquash Cup, from 2009 to 2015, is **2,000%** - how about that! Just like StreetSquash, from small ideas nurtured with enthusiasm, dedication and commitment, come big successes. In 2009 the StreetSquash Cup was hatched and it raised \$55,000. By 2014, we broke through the \$1 million barrier and in 2015 raised an astonishing \$1.125 million, or 50% of StreetSquash's annual budget. As important, the Cup brings together top professional and amateur players from around the globe – and our own StreetSquashers – to raise awareness for the important and ever expanding work being done every day at StreetSquash.

The 'Cup is my number one favorite charity event of the year and it proves you don't need to wear a monkey suit and eat a rubber chicken to have a great time and raise a lot of money – that said, the ribs and deviled eggs from Blue Smoke are pretty good!

It's been so thrilling to have the chance to mingle and play with top world pros and amateurs all of whom donated their time for a common cause – growing StreetSquash. Equally great to have top college players who graduated from StreetSquash (Raheem Logan, Danny

Cabrera, and Mawa Ballo to name a few) in the mix, holding their own, smiling, sweating and winning.

How much bigger can the Cup get?

Well, as George Polsky once said, "If we ever set a goal for StreetSquash... we'd never be as big as we are." Eight is the magic number for 2016! ●

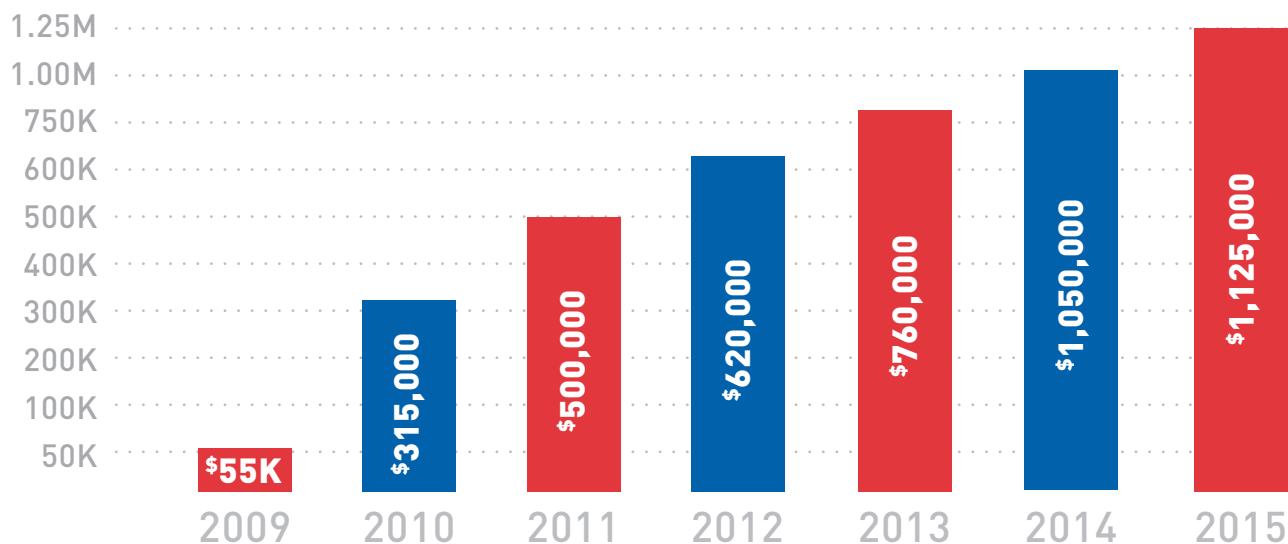


The 2015 StreetSquash Championship Team with co-captains Ed Shugrue and Andrew Fink



\$4,425,000

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED 2009-2015



Team	Captain	Pro & StreetSquasher	Funds Raised
Racquet & Tennis Club	Mitch Truwit	Adrian Grant	\$200,000
	Scott Mackesy	Terrance Rose	
Union Club	Andrew Fink	Bradley Ball	\$150,000
	Ed Shugrue	Raheem Logan	
University Club	Jonathan Berger	Ramit Tandon	\$141,000
		Danny Cabrera	
Harlem SquashTrotters	David Sachs	Amr Khalifa	\$133,000
	Kaveh Khosrowshahi, Honorary Captain	Lonnie Gibbs	
Goldman Sachs & Co	Avanish Bhavsar	Wael el Hindi	\$130,000
	Eric Muller	Richard Fagan	
Women All Stars	Jen Gabler	Ahmed Khalek	\$82,000
	Leslie Kimerling	Brandy Williamson	
Harvard Club	Richard Chin	Campbell Grayson	\$67,000
		Mawa Ballo	
Columbia	Paul Maddon		\$61,000
	Jacques Swanepoel	Jazmin Matos	
YLC	Corey Gildart, Yasser El Halaby	Clinton Leeuw	\$57,700
	Ron Kamdem	Samantha Matos	
Virgin	George Polsky	Chris Hanson	\$52,000
	Steve Freidheim	Rakey Drammeh	

JUNIORS RAISE \$57,000 FOR STREETSQUASH'S P.E PROGRAM!

After witnessing the immeasurable success of the first two years of the StreetSquash Cup, along with the astonishing dedication and camaraderie of our StreetSquash Cup participants, I knew I wanted to emulate the Cup to include a broader – more rambunctious – group of people. In 2011, StreetSquash held our first annual StreetSquash Jr. Cup. The

idea was to hold a community event for the younger and more energetic squash community. We invited a group of 50 young squash players – middle school and high school – to volunteer at the building on a Saturday morning, and then compete in the Jr. Cup tournament in the afternoon. The results were astonishing. It was incredible to see such young members

of the squash community, truly absorbing the spirit of StreetSquash – a day full of service and friendly competition. Five years later, the StreetSquash Jr. Cup has nearly doubled in size and the funds raised. In 2015 we had over 100 participants in the StreetSquash Jr. Cup with over \$57,000 raised for StreetSquash's P.E Program. ●



StreetSquash Jr. Cup 2015



StreetSquash Jr. Cup 2011



Team 'Fairfield County Flash' flash their hard earned trophies at the 2015 Jr. Cup

STREETSQUASH YOUNG LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



YLC Chair, Corey Gildart, offering some words of wisdom to our 9th graders at the 6th Annual College Discovery Night

The StreetSquash Young Leadership Committee was born in 2008, due in large part to the efforts of then staff member Sage Ramadage and several eager young professionals who were committed to supporting StreetSquash programming. Their goals were ambitious – no fundraising amount too tall, no programming event too great. There were phonathons to friends and family, community outings with our hyperactive middle schoolers, annual fundraisers on the Lower East Side, and high-spirited young professionals pitching in for a worthy cause.

Since the inception of the YLC, we have had over 200 members participate on the committee. While the original members were certainly determined in their fundraising goals – raising \$2,500 at their first phonathon, \$1,500

at a Winter Mixer, and a steep \$7,500 raised for the StreetSquash Cup, we couldn't have imagined how far the YLC would come over the next few years.

During the 2014-2015 program year, an impressive \$80,000 was raised for StreetSquash programming through two main events: the StreetSquash Holiday Soiree held at the Racquet and Tennis Club and the annual StreetSquash Cup, where YLC team

members hustled to raise funds from friends, family and colleagues.

However, the YLC has always been more than just fundraising. What is most special about our junior board is that they have the time, energy and spirit to do more than just donate – they make it a priority to give back where it matters – with our StreetSquash students.

This year, StreetSquash held our 6th annual College Discovery Night in the spring, and our 6th annual Career Night in the fall – two special initiatives created by the Young Leadership Committee to get to know our StreetSquash students and learn about their education and career goals for the future.

This coming year, StreetSquash is excited to announce we are welcoming two new co-chairs to bring the YLC to greater heights: Ron Kamdem and Charlene Neo, both of whom have been deeply involved with StreetSquash for several years. ●



Team YLC on court with StreetSquash alumni at the 7th Annual StreetSquash Cup



ALUMNI NATIONALS 2015

While the StreetSquash Center is typically bursting at the seams with StreetSquash after school participants, there was an entirely different sensation in the building when over 120 urban squash alumni gathered at the StreetSquash center for the 3rd annual Alumni Nationals.

StreetSquash had the pleasure of hosting CitySquash (Bronx), MetroSquash (Chicago),

SquashBusters (Boston), Squash Haven (New Haven), SquashSmarts (Philadelphia), and SquashWise (Baltimore) for the weekend long tournament and festivities.

We were ecstatic to welcome back over 60 StreetSquash alumni, many of whom had not been back to StreetSquash since their graduation from the program many moons ago.

Amid the euphoric reunions and inter-program mingling, the weekend also featured a welcome dinner, team squash competition, breakout sessions and award presentations. We were thrilled to host the highly anticipated weekend, and are looking forward to many reunions to come! ●

SUCCESS BEYOND STREETSQUASH

CONTRIBUTED BY TONY MARUCA – SQUASH DIRECTOR 2008–2011

Danny Cabrera has experienced one of the most remarkable transformations StreetSquash has ever seen. From an unmotivated, disorganized middle schooler, to a team leader and academically-minded high schooler, Danny is now an accomplished senior at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, preparing to graduate with a double major in economics and public policy.

When I first met Danny, I was struck by his friendliness and sociability. Here was a kid who “got it” and could follow an adult conversation, despite English being a distant second language at home. Like many self-aware, socially adept kids, Danny’s sense of humor trended toward the sardonic. He was skeptical of school, embarrassed to strive for risk of failure, and disinclined to try hard on the squash court lest people take him too seriously. Out there on the court alone, he would crumble under the pressure of expectation. Danny was sweet; he was endearing; however, he was not impressive.

At some point, something clicked. He took charge. During his sophomore year, Danny dramatically improved his grades at Thurgood Marshall. That summer he earned an exclusive opportunity to train in England, the next, a prestigious scholarship to the Philips Exeter Academy’s Summer School.



Danny Cabrera at the 7th Annual StreetSquash Cup with StreetSquash supporter John Musto.

Since graduating from StreetSquash, Danny went on to excel at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. In addition to maintaining a 3.5 GPA, he is also the captain of the squash team, a resident assistant, and teacher’s assistant for his economics professor. While Danny is certainly an active member of the Statesmen community, we can always count on Danny to return to his roots at StreetSquash. Whether he

is volunteering on court with current students, or participating in our annual StreetSquash Cup fundraiser, Danny makes a conscious effort to give back to the organization that has given so much. •

A TALE OF THREE CITIES

THE GROWTH BETWEEN HARLEM AND THE TWIN CITIES

CONTRIBUTED BY KATIE SIEGEL, SENIOR SQUASH DIRECTOR, STREETSQUASH 2008 – 2011, 2015 – PRESENT



Welcome StreetSquashers! Katie is reunited with her Harlem students, Terrance '12, Daniel '14, Hakeem '12 and De'Quan '15

I left StreetSquash during the summer of 2011 in a whirlwind of goodbyes, hugs, and “see you soon,” and moved midway across the country to start a new life in the Twin Cities. I had been involved in StreetSquash for 4 years at that point; 3 as a staff member, and an additional year as a volunteer. All together, my time at StreetSquash was equivalent to what I had spent in either high school or college. Leaving was not insignificant; StreetSquash had become the most consistent thing for me amid a life in the busiest city in the world, and a time where everything else seemed to be in flux.

The move to Minnesota was driven by the opportunity to help build an urban squash program from the ground up. When I arrived in September 2011, we had no name, no partner schools, and no staff. The contrast to what I had become accustomed to in Harlem was striking; I knew what we were trying to

create, but the 12 year head start that StreetSquash had on us seemed daunting.

Little by little, we started building. We named the program--Beyond Walls: Urban Squash Twin Cities--we found partner schools, we hired staff, and we began to run practices. The students were eager; they wanted to play all the time, they hoped to travel to tournaments, and they worked hard in academic sessions. The Twin Cities squash community was supportive; they wrapped us up in a humongous hug, coming out to volunteer, inviting us to different clubs around the cities, and making us the beneficiary of their annual tournaments. The University of Minnesota welcomed us into their Rec Center, provided us with space, and partnered with us to create a pipeline of top-notch tutors and de-facto mentors. Still, despite all of this growth, something was missing.

It took some time to put my finger on it; with so much progress in a short time, there was a piece that was still lacking. NUSEA had accepted our application for membership, we were considered legitimate and appeared to be successfully putting the pieces together, but we needed more. We were isolated in Minnesota, with the next closest program, Chicago's MetroSquash, being a 7 hour drive. We were missing the camaraderie of having rivals, friends, and being surrounded by familiar faces within the NUSEA network. We were lacking in having older, more experienced students who had been in the program for some time; students who could lead our newbies, prove that the model worked, and provide inspiration for our participants.

It seemed like a long shot at the time, but I called on the only resource I knew; the entity that had been the inspiration for so many developments at Beyond Walls. I picked up the phone and dialed the number I had recited so many times over my tenure at StreetSquash, “I need some students to come out here and help show everyone what this can become,” I said. “Can you send me a couple kids for a week?” By the time I hung up, the staff in Harlem had agreed to send me 3 high school students to help out over their April break. I was ecstatic; not only would the students help to provide a model for the Twin Cities participants in the program, but a piece of home and familiarity was coming out to see me. Aside from my closest friends and family, the people who had called to check up on me most were my former



Greetings from Minnesota! Katie's students new and old gather for a final farewell

StreetSquashers. I couldn't wait to see them.

The students chosen were three boys I had worked with during their 7th-9th grade years at StreetSquash; Daniel, Darquell, and Elhadji. It's difficult to describe the experience of having them visit; I wanted the week to last forever. The Beyond Walls students reacted to them immediately; they wanted to emulate everything the boys did. The relationships developed organically as they bonded first over squash, taking in everything that the boys shared and showed them on court, and then in comparing accents, popular music, and snacks, specifically recognizing that Minneapolis was the home of the then-famous Hot Cheetos and Takis. By the time the week was over, the students from Minnesota were as sad as I was to see the boys go.

Over the next three years, eleven more StreetSquash students traveled to Minnesota to work with Beyond Walls. Each time, the experience was as rich as the first, as the students shared their love of squash, and created an unlikely connection between Harlem and the Twin Cities. When we traveled to NUSEA tournaments

on the East Coast, the StreetSquash students cheered for and coached the Beyond Walls players, and in exchange, the Beyond Walls students stayed late at the venues to watch their StreetSquash friends compete. In some ways, the StreetSquash students took ownership over the younger program, and looked out for their Midwestern counterparts as older siblings might do. It was nothing I could have orchestrated, but rather, it grew naturally from shared experiences and a common love of squash.

When I left StreetSquash in 2011, I never imagined that we would be able to form the type of connection that we ultimately did between the two programs. Returning to StreetSquash now, four years since I left, I wear my Beyond Walls gear proudly, eagerly anticipating the next time that I will see my former program at a tournament. I am hopeful that we can continue to grow the relationship between StreetSquash and Beyond Walls, as both programs continue to grow and move forward. ●



StreetSquasher Kamali, '15 (center) joined by her new friends from Beyond Walls

GROWTH OF NUSEA

URBAN SQUASH ALL OVER THE WORLD



Today there are 22 urban squash programs in the U.S. and abroad, but just 12 years ago there were only four: SquashBusters, SquashSmarts, CitySquash and StreetSquash. Back then, the movement was just beginning to take shape, and there was only informal interaction among the organizations. Everyone recognized that there was a terrific opportunity to bring these young, urban squash players together

for meaningful competition on a regular basis.

Last January over 400 middle and high school students from cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore and Denver arrived in New York to play in the 12th annual NUSEA Urban Team Nationals, which was held at the StreetSquash and CitySquash facilities. Last June, 390 urban youth from across the country descended on the campuses of Williams and

Amherst for the 13th annual Urban Individual Nationals. It has been a remarkable journey to see what was just an idea grow into 2 events that serve close to 800 children each year. While it's impossible to know how things will look 12 years from now, it seems safe to say we're going to need some additional sites. ●



2015: StreetSquash middle schoolers at the 13th annual Urban Individuals Tournament at Williams College

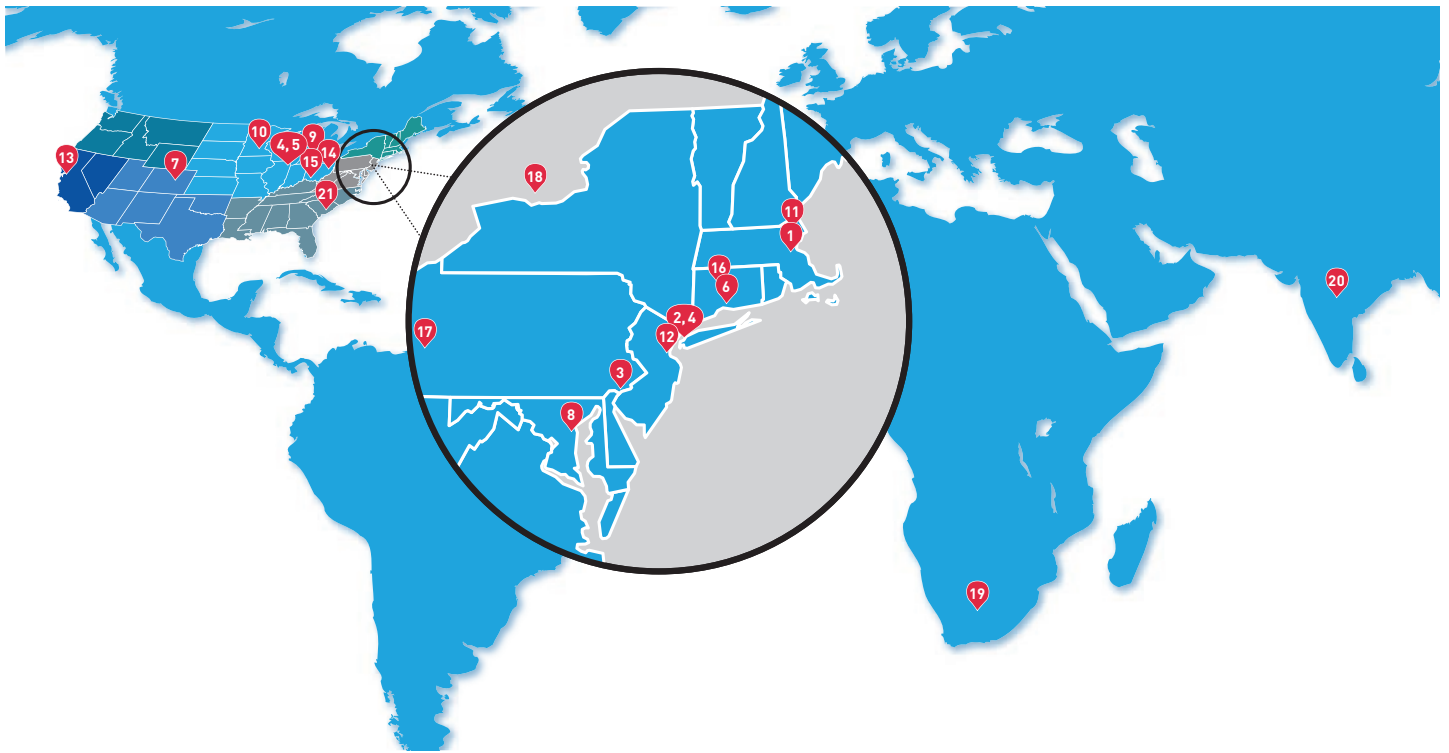


2003: Inaugural Urban Individuals at the Groton School, Groton Massachusetts



The urban squash class of 2015 congregate at Urban Individuals at Amherst College

NUSEA Timeline



1995 SquashBusters, Boston, MA - 1

1999 StreetSquash, New York, NY - 2

2000 SquashSmarts, Philadelphia, PA - 3

2002 CitySquash, Bronx, NY - 4

2005 MetroSquash, Chicago, Il - 5

2007 Squash Haven, New Haven, CT - 6

2008 Impact 360, Denver, CO - 7
SquashWise, Baltimore, MD - 8

2010 Racquet Up, Detroit, MI - 9

2011 Beyond Walls Twin Cities,
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN - 10

2012 SquashBusters Lawrence, MA - 11
StreetSquash Newark, NJ - 12

2013 SquashDrive, Oakland, CA - 13
Urban Squash Cleveland, OH - 14

2014 Cincinnati Squash Academy,
Cincinnati, OH - 15
Capitol Squash, Hartford, CT - 16
Steel City Squash, Pittsburgh, PA - 17
Urban Squash Toronto, Toronto, CA - 18
CA Egoli Squash, Johannesburg, ZA - 19
Khelshala, Chandigarh, IN - 20

2015 Chucktown Squash, Charleston, SC - 21



STREETSSQUASH
HARLEM

**AN URBAN YOUTH
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

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HARLEM

MISSION

FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 1999, STREETSQUASH IS AN AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM THAT COMBINES ACADEMIC TUTORING WITH SQUASH INSTRUCTION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, COLLEGE PREPARATION, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND MENTORING. STREETSQUASH'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT, LONG-TERM AND RELIABLE SUPPORT TO THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS IN HARLEM. BY EXPOSING THESE CHILDREN TO A BROAD RANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND BY MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS, STREETSQUASH AIMS TO HELP EACH CHILD REALIZE HIS OR HER ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL POTENTIAL.