

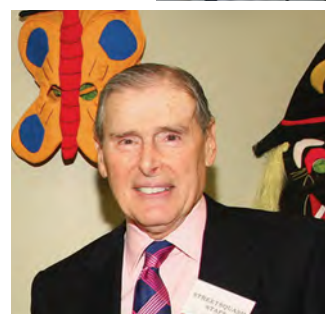
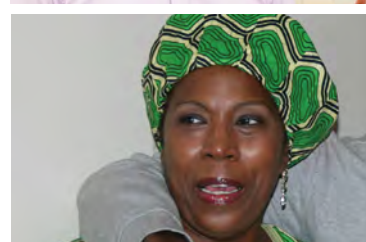
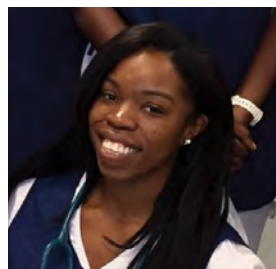
# STREET SQUASH

## HARLEM

# THE LIVES AFFECTED

STORY: PAGE 2 – 10

When people think of the impact that StreetSquash makes on others, they most often think of the children that the program has served. But there are also many other individuals - volunteers, donors, Board members, staff - whose lives have been changed because of their involvement. Here are their stories.....



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National Urban Squash and  
Education Association

# LESLIE KIMERLING

## FOUNDING STREETSSQUASH BOARD MEMBER



*Leslie Kimerling (left) with her team at the StreetSquash Cup.*

To write about StreetSquash is to bring into focus 17 years of images: first discussions with George at the Maccabiah Games in Israel, program details of what and how over carrots and humus at his kitchen table. Never was there a question of if; the reality was assumed. Images of the StreetSquashers: their laughter, their talkback, their pride in winning, sadness in losing and most clearly their genuine love and respect for George and all the StreetSquash staff.

The accomplishments are stunning. I see the pride of heading to college and the possibilities of life ahead beaming through. From the first practice the first week of the program when the two girls I was coaching asked me “why are you here” and I answered “because of you” – is as true now as it was then.

I couldn't be prouder of any group of people I have the gift to know. From the beginning George has stood for and demanded the best for the kids, the staff and the program – and now for Newark – and indeed for the entire sister programs around the country. My business career has centered on developing and growing start-ups and early stage organizations, and it is StreetSquash that I am most proud. The program and most especially the students, staff, parents and volunteers – the collective StreetSquash community – exemplify the rewards of the continuous pursuit of excellence, of life's possibilities and of the gift of family and community. Whether at a graduation ceremony, on court playing squash with a student or cheering on the Women All Stars at the StreetSquash Cup, I see excellence and the power of encouragement and support in action. To the next 20 years! ●



# SADE WATTS

## STREETSSQUASH ALUMNA

In 2010, I transitioned into motherhood for a second time. This was a very defining moment in my life. As a single mother, this new addition raised the stakes for me financially and emotionally. Let me say, the hardest and most important job that I will ever have is being a mother. Parenthood is the biggest undertaking anyone could ever face. We are all expected to master it and if we don't we are failing our kids. This is why for the future of my children, for myself, I want to succeed. I want my intelligence, determination, and self-reliance to be proof that, as Paulo Coehlo wrote, "people are capable, at any time in their lives, of doing what they dream of."

Briefly, let me share with you a story about how my life has changed over the past few years. Prior to working at StreetSquash, I worked two jobs to support my family. I had to make many sacrifices in order to secure an income. I was working extremely long hours, spending not enough time with my children, and taking on two positions, which essentially I had no passion for. Within a year, I was frustrated and burnt out. I had a vision of a better way. I had thoughts of becoming successful, thoughts of becoming a nurse. I knew what I would have to do to get there but for the moment I was stuck. The reality was I had responsibilities. Only seeing what was in front of me and not what was ahead, I chose a more immediate approach that would hopefully preserve my happiness. I started looking for a better job.

In the summer of 2011, I had the opportunity to interview for a position at StreetSquash. I remember during my interview, my former coach and mentor in a concerned and straightforward tone asked me, "If offered the position

- because I do assume you will move on eventually - what are your plans beyond StreetSquash?" With conviction I stated, "I plan to go back to school and become a nurse." Certainly, there was some truth in my statement although I'm not sure how much I believed in what I was saying. I have always had a great desire to become a nurse; only at this point in my life I lacked the motivation and resources to put my plan into action.

I am proud to say that in nine weeks I will be attending my pinning ceremony for completion of an Associates Degree in Nursing. As my time in Hostos Community College comes to an end, I look forward to entering the next stage in my life. At present, I am awaiting acceptance into a bachelors degree program and preparing to take my New York State Licensure exam, which will certify that I am officially



*Sade (kneeling bottom right) with fellow nursing students*

Over the course of ten years StreetSquash has been a major part of my life. However, it was during this critical period that I am most grateful for. Not only did I reclaim my happiness, my drive, my confidence, I became part of a huge support system. I had coworkers, students, parents and everyone in between encouraging me. StreetSquash has in so many ways challenged my abilities, opened doors for opportunity, and empowered me to be my best self.

a registered nurse. How amazing is that! It is through my experiences and involvement at StreetSquash that I realized I am not powerless. My journey is proof that you can recreate your life. There is nothing that you want that is too good to be true. You just have to believe it! StreetSquash communicates this to everyone that walks through its doors. So on behalf of StreetSquash, let my battle be one that shows others their stories can also become a successful one. ●

# RON SINGER

## VOLUNTEER 2001-PRESENT

**T**rying to help other people may or may not help them. More often, I would say, it helps the helper. For me, working at StreetSquash for about a dozen years has allowed me to adapt my volunteer work to my age. I went in as a squash coach, of sorts, then moved on to general tutoring, and finally to helping students with college application essays. Over these years, there were more and more students and more and more adults in the program. From guest status at Harvard, Columbia, and Thurgood Marshall Academy, StreetSquash eventually found its present, wonderful home. As the program prospered and expanded, however, I never had the sense that bureaucratic ossification was setting in. In other words, I have been privileged to witness the unfolding of a very good, holistic idea --mixing squash with school studies and other life experience (travel, community service)-- within a very good organization.

StreetSquash has also connected me with a category of people very different from me, adolescents of color. This connection took place in Harlem, a part of my own city that I had previously known mostly from the outside. The students I worked with over the years at StreetSquash erased stereotypes I had long carried about young people of color. These stereotypes were replaced by a sense of infinite variety. By now, I could no more generalize about StreetSquashers than about myself.

In addition to my other work with the organization, one summer I was permitted to teach a course called "Logic & Writing," which I had developed at my primary place of employment, Friends Seminary, a K-12 private school. This course aims to inculcate clear thinking, reading and writing, which I regard as tools for effective citizenship. Learning from these first two teaching experiences, I have since shaped the original



material into a flexible model. Now that I am "retired" from teaching, I work primarily as a writer.

To sum up, over the years, StreetSquash has enriched my life in more ways than I probably realize. Among those that I do realize, the program has allowed me to keep using my changing skills to good effect. It has turned "them" into part of "us." It has acted as a laboratory in which to develop a new teaching passion for my post-teaching years. Finally, it is one of the most effective models for social change that I know about. In a word, StreetSquash has lifted me. ●



David Sachs (left) with George Polsky

# DAVID SACHS

## STREETSQUASH CUP CAPTAIN, 2008-PRESENT

**I**n researching squash programs in greater New York I came across StreetSquash. I took the opportunity to meet George Polsky and gain insight into his vision. I was able to interact with his team of dedicated co-workers and see for myself the passion with which everyone worked to their common goals of mentoring, counseling, and tutoring their student population to build academic and life skills, and train burgeoning squash players.

The program, refined over the past 15 years, is working, with a measured

outcome of over 98% of the students graduating from high school. This quantifiable success attracted my time and financial resources to assist, in my way, to support the mission statement of StreetSquash. I've helped build awareness of StreetSquash in my community, I've participated in the StreetSquash Cup as a player and captain of the Harlem Squash Trotters for the past five years, and my son has worked on premise as a summer counselor. The funds I have donated directly or helped to raise are being put to use to expand StreetSquash's reach, be it by adding more social workers or bolstering the college scholarship fund, thus impacting more at-risk youth in Harlem and now Newark.



**DAVID SACHS***(Continued from page 4)*

Every time I've been to the StreetSquash Center I marvel at the truly appreciative student body, I marvel at the pristine condition both inside and out of the property, and I marvel at the respect StreetSquash

has commanded in its community. All these touch points reinforce my confidence that my philanthropic efforts are beneficial, making for a virtuous cycle that can perpetuate. With a great staff, an engaged alumni network and a dedicated team of

overseers the foundation of excellence is in place. For these reasons I am proud to be associated with StreetSquash and view my donations of time and money well spent to support a community outreach program demonstrating success every day. ●

**RON KAMDEM****EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER****STREETSSQUASH YOUNG LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Interacting with the staff and students at StreetSquash has been a great learning experience for me. I initially got involved as a volunteer after playing against one of the students in a league match, and I was very impressed with his composure and maturity. I decided that I wanted to learn more about the program – specifically what was it about the staff and the environment they created for the students that allowed them to grow as young adults while ensuring that the students were engaged and having

fun. As I reflect on my years spent volunteering at StreetSquash, I realize that my experience has affected me personally in two ways: it has made me excited about working with students and it has given me perspective about my own life and how I balance what is important to me.

I initially started as a squash volunteer and then transitioned to an academic mentor as the time slot made more sense for me. Working one on one with a student to help him prepare for the ACT was full of challenges as well

as great learning opportunities. As I worked with my mentee to identify common stumbling blocks and devise strategies to approach different problems, I could see him gaining more confidence every day. That is when I realized that a little guidance can go a long way in combating fears and other frictions that arise when facing a challenge. As my mentee continued to progress throughout the year, watching his study habits and test taking skills improve was incredibly  
*(Continued on page 7)*



Ron Kamdem (third from left) with fellow StreetSquash YLC team members at the StreetSquash Cup.

# SAGE RAMADGE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

NUSEA STREETSSQUASH STAFF/VOLUNTEER 2000-2013



*Andrew Scott, Danny Cabrera and Terrance Rose with Sage Ramadge (far right)*

From the first Saturday that I volunteered with StreetSquash, I was inspired. The students I met were hungry to learn, eager to make a connection with someone new, and were convinced they could beat me at squash. While I hadn't played competitively since high school, I was still decent, and they'd only been at it for a year, at most. On the Saturday mornings I wasn't playing rugby, I'd walk up to Columbia's Dodge Fitness Center, and ask George or Joy who they wanted me to coach. I'd hop on the old narrow courts for an afternoon of squash with Xavier, Raymond, or Taralyn, and whatever was going on in the world, after an hour or two on

court, I'd feel so much better. Half of the time was spent doing drills and half of the time was spent getting to know the kids. For the last ten minutes, they'd challenge me to some games. As I learned, winning just one point meant they'd beaten me. Just like them, very quickly, I was hungry for more.

Fast forward many years, and I've been Academic Director, Program Director, and a part of StreetSquash's growth beyond anything I could have imagined in 2000. In so many ways, I've grown as well. Working alongside amazing colleagues and volunteers, I was inspired every day by the passion and commitment to education and

opportunity that is a hallmark of the organization. I was inspired by the parents, whose love and hope for their children included putting their trust in StreetSquash's mission, and the young people who wanted to help their children succeed. And I was inspired by George and StreetSquash's supporters, who built the SL Green StreetSquash Center in Harlem, where nothing like it existed before.

Since moving to New York fifteen years ago, and now living in Harlem a block away from the StreetSquash Center, I know what a treasure "The Building" is for the hundreds of kids in the program, and in the life of the city. StreetSquash is a singular experience for all of the people who devote their time and energy to the organization's mission of improving the lives of young people. It is especially significant for the students, whose lives are transformed over many years, graduating from high school and attending college. Luckily for me, since leaving StreetSquash, I still live nearby and can run over on a moment's notice for a game of squash, to catch up with some of the kids, or to meet with George or Sareen to discuss the work I'm doing at the National Urban Squash and Education Association, bringing the work that StreetSquash and other organizations are doing to new communities across the country and overseas. And just like that first Saturday, StreetSquash continues to inspire me. ●

# CORBY ELLIS-MARE

STREETSSQUASH PARENT

FORMER CHAIR OF STREETSSQUASH PARENT BOARD



Corby with her son Elhadji, now a Freshman at Trinity College

**A**fter years of Little League games, soccer matches and karate I would have never believed that a little black squash ball would become a big part of our life! From the very start I knew StreetSquash was a special organization. The home visit made the best first and lasting impression. Welcoming Katie and Jade into my home provided a great opportunity for them to personally demonstrate a genuine concern for the children placed in their care. I felt an instant connection with the StreetSquash staffers and knew in my heart that my son would be safe and secure in their responsible hands.

Everyday I went to work knowing that my son was leaving school, escorted by trustworthy adults to a place that nurtured both academic and athletic achievement. I was finally living every working parent's dream! Through the years, as StreetSquash activities became an inclusive part of our daily family life, my role as a concerned parent evolved as well. When the idea to start a Parent Board came up, I consented to assist with the formation process in a limited capacity. Demanding job responsibilities and commuting from New Jersey often restricted my ability to extend myself above and beyond the 9 to 5 timeline. However, after countless planning sessions, hours of working closely with other devoted parents and StreetSquash staffers, we slowly but surely began to recognize the historic nature of our efforts.

Establishing the organization's first Parent's Committee eventually became a labor of love for everyone involved with the process. The experience actually seemed to restore and revive the volunteer spirit within me! I began to extend my after work

involvement way beyond the 9 to 5 timeline, everyday and almost every weekend. Driving teammates home after late night practice, Breast Cancer Walks, Global Youth Days, squash tournaments, cookie fundraisers, parent workshops, Cycling for the Blind and the annual StreetSquash Cup events... I was all in!

Today, the StreetSquash Parent Committee is an integral and growing support-oriented component of the organization's community service, academic and athletic enrichment program. Driven by a well-defined statement of purpose, the "Committee" includes a governing executive board, team leaders, elected officers and a dedicated staff liaison. I take pride in my overall contribution to the formation of the StreetSquash Parent Committee and value the network of friendships formed with all those involved with this noteworthy accomplishment. ●

## RON KAMDEM

*(Continued from page 5)*

rewarding. Not only did I feel like I was having an impact, but I had built a stronger relationship with him and he had developed skills that would serve him for the rest of his academic career. I've found that working with students strikes the right balance between having an impact, building a lasting relationship, and overcoming tough challenges. This is what excites me about volunteering because every student I work with provides a different experience and I feel myself growing

along with the student as we work together throughout the year.

StreetSquash has also gotten me to rethink how I balance my work and social life with volunteering. As I've gotten to know the staff and students at the program, I've been impressed by how everyone plays a role in advancing the development of students. Volunteering is one of the few opportunities that I have to invest in the development of others and I think it is both important and complementary to the time I spend investing in my own personal development. It allows me to step out of my own shoes and see life

through a different lens. Volunteering has always been important to me because I think investing in the development of students at a young age is the best way to have a lasting impact. StreetSquash has afforded me the platform to make a difference and has challenged me to think about the most effective ways to serve students at scale. Since I've been involved with the program, I've thought a lot more about how to impact the lives of others and how to keep my volunteering activities at StreetSquash a healthy part of my life. ●



## JEFF LAIKIND

### FOUNDING BOARD CHAIR

When we started StreetSquash in 1998, I would solicit funds from various organizations by using the phrase "StreetSquash changes the lives of its students". I was wrong. I would change that phrase today to something different: "StreetSquash and its students have the ability to change the world". We have graduated an entire generation of young men and women who have faced real challenges and, despite them, have made incredible progress and done terrific work. And in the process it has changed me.

When asked about my not for profit work, I don't mention the New York City Opera, Harlem School of the Arts, Choate Rosemary Hall. "No" I tell



Jeff Laikind at the opening of the SL Green StreetSquash Center, November 2008, with Oliver Polsky, George Polsky and Hillary Clinton.

them. I helped found StreetSquash, and that the graduates of our program are helping change the world from which they came. And then I think to myself: "I did that".

We held our first meetings around dinner at my kitchen table. It was

my dream that StreetSquash could one day become life changing for its students. It was just my dream, and we have fulfilled my dream, and by getting to where we are today, I am different, because I know that thanks to many people, mostly our students, I have helped change the world. ●

## ANDREW FINK

### STREETSQUASH BOARD MEMBER AND STREETSQUASH CUP CAPTAIN



Andrew Fink (left) with StreetSquash Board Chair Mitch Truitt

I have always considered it my obligation to give back. This was engrained in me from childhood and was perpetuated throughout my formative years in high school where I first met George Polsky (also where George taught me to play

squash). To this end, after college I became involved in a number of charitable organizations. What I found, however, was that my involvement was usually limited to board or advisory level activities. These were larger, somewhat impersonal organizations; and even if I wanted to be more directly involved my plate was already full with professional and increasing family obligations. I read about the results of these organizations' efforts but never really got to see the impact first hand.

When George asked me to become involved with StreetSquash, I thought it would be fun to help an old friend with a new venture and to have the

opportunity to play squash to boot. I had no idea the degree to which StreetSquash would inspire me. From teaching squash to the first class of StreetSquashers on weekends at Columbia, to attending graduation ceremonies at the Harvard Club, to participating in the planning and development of the StreetSquash Center, and later helping to organize the first StreetSquash Cup, I have found myself at the ground level watching how an organization can make a direct impact and profoundly change the lives of young people. As a friend of George, a member of the StreetSquash Board, and a New Yorker who cares about improving life for New Yorkers, StreetSquash has delivered beyond all expectations. I am deeply grateful to have been a part of it. ●



# MONIQUE HENDRICKS

STREETSSQUASH PARENT  
STREETSSQUASH STAFF

My participation with StreetSquash started in 2008. My son Nasean was attending the Thurgood Marshall Academy Middle School summer orientation, and he picked the activity of squash. I had no idea what the game of squash was but was happy he was doing something with some physical activity.

During that year, the Parent Board was established. I attended some of the meetings, but I was not as active as I wanted to be due to having numerous surgeries one after the other. StreetSquash was a lifesaver for Nasean and me during that time. He now had an outlet to express himself and let out frustrations he might have had from watching me go through the pain of surgery. StreetSquash gave us an opportunity to learn something new: a sport that we did not know existed. StreetSquash also gave Nasean a sense of belonging now that he would become a part of a team. He learned sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, camaraderie, and made lifelong friendships. Participation in StreetSquash also guided Nasean and me with the importance of education and helped me get him focused on his future. Nasean did not start out as a good student. He was not focused and was very lazy, but StreetSquash staff did not give up on him.

Over the years Nasean had a few different Academic Directors, but they all pushed him to realize his potential. One in particular, Alana Presslaff, made the greatest impact on him. With her persistence and compassion, she helped Nasean to become a stronger student. His grades improved, his attitude changed, and his confidence was boosted. Another very influential person in our lives through StreetSquash was Mark Rapisarda, Nasean's Squash Director. Mark pushed Nasean and taught him to believe in his squash potential. With all of that hard work and persistence

during Urban Individuals in June 2013 Nasean won his first Silver Plate for the Under 19 draw.

As I began to feel better physically my involvement with the Parent Board grew and from 2010-2014 I became the Parent Representative for Teams 3, 2, and 1 until Nasean graduated. I also participated in the fundraising and any other tasks that were needed to support the Parent Board. Again, StreetSquash came through for my family and me when they hired James Garner, my partner, and Nasean's Stepdad, in 2010. A maintenance position became available and at that time there was only one income in our household. James applied and he was hired and it came at the perfect time. His hire also brought our family deeper into the StreetSquash family fold as James and so many of the students developed great relationships, many of them lasting long after those students graduated from High School. In January 2013 my relationship with StreetSquash changed: I became a staff member. The position for Front Desk Receptionist was available. I applied and was hired.

As a member of the StreetSquash staff I was given an opportunity to get back into the workforce. Before January 2013 I had not worked since



Monique Hendricks with James and Nasean at his graduation from Thurgood Marshall Academy

March 2007. I was laid off and still recovering from back surgery. Being a staff member at StreetSquash was a little scary at first. I was off my game some, having been out of work for so many years, but after a few months I began to get the hang of the job and expectations of a StreetSquash staff member. Over the years I have fallen in love with the students at StreetSquash. Many of them look at me as another mom or aunt. I give them the same support and compassion that I give my own son, Nasean. I now have more insight on what it takes day in and day out to keep this place running. It is not an easy task, but I am grateful that StreetSquash has helped to change me and my family's life for the better. ●

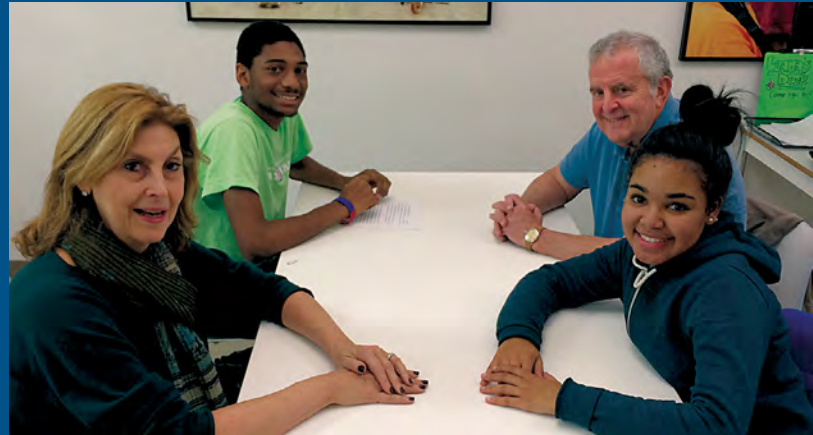
# RICHARD NESSON AND BARBARA LUCAS

## STREETSSQUASH COLLEGE PREP MENTORS

For the last four years, my wife, Barbara Lucas and I have been strong supporters of StreetSquash, both as donors and as volunteer college prep mentors. We got involved after hearing from friends about StreetSquash, and we're excited to get involved and provide opportunities for growth. As parents and grandparents, the idea of helping kids appealed to us. After visiting with StreetSquash staff at their first-class squash and academic facility on 115th Street, and learning about the need for volunteers to augment the work of the staff, we decided to give it a try.

Over the past four years each of us has met weekly during the fall and early winter with a high school senior, providing guidance on the selection of colleges and help with the application process. During the late winter and spring, each of us has worked with an eleventh grader, preparing them for either the SAT or ACT college entrance exam. We arrange to meet the students after school at the StreetSquash facility and the amount of time we spend is modest -- no more than two hours each week -- but the payback we get is immeasurable.

We have been so impressed with our mentees. Not only are they lovely, bright, interesting kids; they're also kids



*Richard and Barbara with their mentees, Nick and Kamali.*

who have made the commitment to spend much of their free time at StreetSquash because of their determination to succeed despite, in some cases, very difficult challenges. We have been truly excited when we learn of their acceptance to a college of their choice and take enormous pride in having helped them realize their dreams. It doesn't get any better than that. Our message to anyone who has the time and the interest -- if you could help a kid change his or her life for the better by volunteering at StreetSquash, why wouldn't you sign up today? ●

# JAMES GARNER

## STREETSSQUASH PARENT STREETSSQUASH STAFF

As a kid growing up in the inner city, I was exposed to trouble all around me. There were a limited number of productive programs I could attend, which caused many of my peers to get into trouble. Fortunately, I have always lived life with the desire to help others -- most importantly children -- in a positive way. In 1999, StreetSquash opened its doors to children at Thurgood Marshall Academy, introducing this foreign sport called squash. Upon hearing about this sport, I remember thinking to myself "Isn't that a vegetable?" Despite this confusion, I still liked

the idea of an after-school program offering something fresh and different to our children. When I first walked into the building, it was such a blessing to see the children learning and enjoying a sport not typically played in Harlem. After seeing everything StreetSquash had to offer, I knew I wanted to be part of this family. Soon after, a position in the maintenance department opened and as luck would have it, I found that I was a part of something bigger than myself. Since then, StreetSquash has shown me how to help children accomplish their goals through caring and compassion. Now, I



have been a part of four StreetSquash graduating classes and because of this program, I have been inspired to go back and finish school. Thank you StreetSquash for the support over these last four years. ●



# TERRANCE ROSE: MAKING THE MOST OF THE STREETSQUASH EXPERIENCE

My exclamation joined the chorus of others before the reader could finish his name. Terrance Rose walked across the stage with his trademark grin and swagger, recognizable to anyone who knows him, to receive his diploma. This past August 27th, he joined 83 peers at the inaugural commencement of Stella and Charles Guttman Community College. Terrance finished his associate's degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.3 and a commitment to academic, athletic and personal excellence. His evolution and growth is a glowing example of what we hope will happen for all our StreetSquash students.

Terrance began his career at StreetSquash as a thoroughly average seventh-grader, hovering in the mid-to-low C range on his report cards. Though he often found himself being reprimanded for, in his words, "goofing-off," it was clear that he had the ability to excel if he could focus his seemingly inexhaustible energy. The one place where the glimmer of his real commitment came through was on the squash court. He rose quickly through the ranks to the top of



*Terrance lining up a backhand.*



*Terrance holds the victory trophy with fellow R&T Club teammates after the 2013 StreetSquash Cup.*

his class and by ninth-grade he was playing at the varsity level. His love for the game kept him committed to the program and he continued showing up every day he could, despite continuing to struggle in the academic program.

By the end of Terrance's tenth-grade year, the idea of playing college squash began to inform his chosen trajectory. With a newfound fervor, he applied himself to his schoolwork and training for this next step. However, it became evident that it was a classic case of too little, too late; his dream to go on to a college, and play squash there, looked unrealistic given his mediocre high school grades. Terrance, the consummate optimist, moved to plan B. Working with the College Access and Success team, he decided to attend a community college for two years, work at StreetSquash, continue training, and then transfer to a college where he could play.

For two years, we watched as Terrance delicately balanced his academic requirements with his commitment to coaching and helping out at StreetSquash. He regularly

checked in with the College Access and Success team, making sure his trajectory remained true to his dream. He researched and contacted schools that fell into his range and took all the necessary steps to complete his goals.

On Saturday morning, June 7th, I woke up early and noticed a voicemail on my phone from Terrance and decided to check it. "LEEETTTT'SSS GOOOOOO!" began the message. "T-Rose here telling you that I GOT IN!" I didn't need to hear anything else. Terrance had already been accepted to some excellent four-year schools but he had set his sights on Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Displaying an incredible amount of tenacity and patience, he had secured his shot. Terrance will join his fellow Statesmen in January to begin his collegiate squash career and continue his academic dream. We could not be more proud, and cannot wait to see all that he will continue to achieve in the future. ●



# YES WE DID!

## STREETSQUASH CUP PASSES THE \$1 MILLION MARK ■

AS FOR 2015, WHO KNOWS WHAT NEW HEIGHTS WILL BE REACHED...



*Union Club Squash Pro Bradley Ball leads the charge to an historic win for his team.*



*Andrew Fink proudly hoists the Founders Cup.*

And they said it couldn't be done. That we were a bunch of dreamers. Well, thanks to the relentless efforts of the 10 team captains, and the support from over 600 donors, the 6th annual StreetSquash Cup raised an amazing \$1,050,000! Just the year before, StreetSquash Board Chair, and R&T Team Captain Mitch Truwit, put everyone on notice that the \$1 million mark would be met. And so it was.

Taking home top honors for fundraising was Board member Andrew Fink, who lifted the Founders



*Hisham Ashour does his best to motivate Auggie Bhavsar*

Cup after co-leading the University Club team (with Jonathan Berger) and the Union Club team (with Ed Shugrue). Breaking all previous records, Andrew's two teams totaled over \$310,000! A truly amazing performance.

On the squash courts, the competition was, as usual, fierce and fast-paced. It seems that each year the level of play rises, and even the #3 and #4 spots on teams were filled by highly

ranked players. The finals came down to the Union Club vs. R&T, and, once again, a thrilling fight to raise the StreetSquash Cup. Led by the indomitable Bradley Ball, and their rock-steady StreetSquasher Raheem Logan, the Union Club prevailed 4-2. Co-Captain Ed Shugrue's early morning workouts clearly paid real dividends, and the entire team returns to their club as proud champions of the 2014 StreetSquash Cup. ●

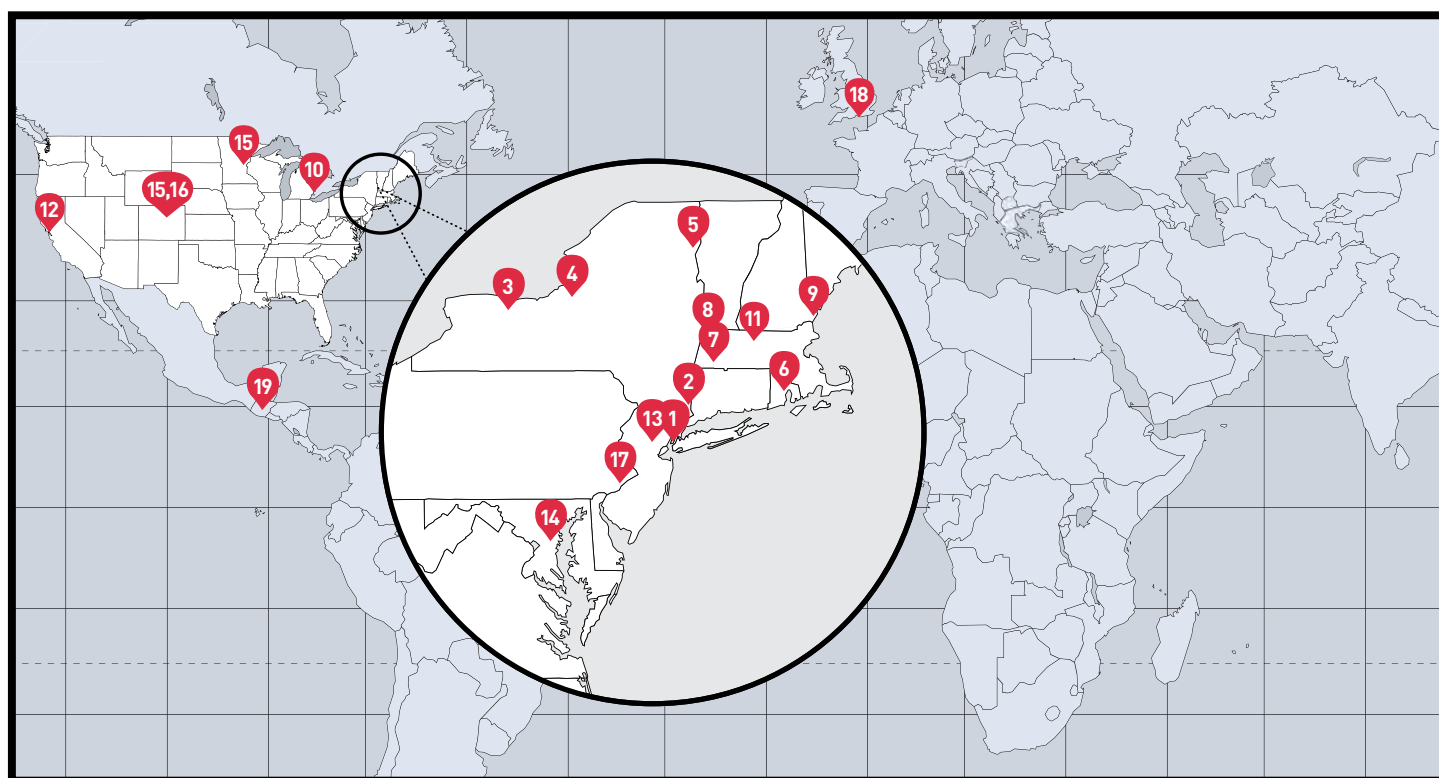




Team	Captain	Pro & StreetSquasher	Funds Raised
<b>R&amp;T</b>	Mitch Truwit Scott Mackesy	Wael el Hindi Terrance Rose	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>University</b>	Jonathan Berger Andrew Fink	Amr Khalifa Divine Wing	<b>\$170,000</b>
<b>Union</b>	Andrew Fink Ed Shugrue	Bradley Ball Raheem Logan	<b>\$151,000</b>
<b>Harvard Club</b>	Oscar Schafer	Shahier Razik Jamel Key	<b>\$112,000</b>
<b>Harlem Squash Trotters</b>	David Sachs Eric Semler Bob Mylod (Honorary Captain)	Hisham Ashour Lonnie Gibbs	<b>\$106,000</b>
<b>Goldman Sachs</b>	Eric Muller	Ramit Tandon Daequan Leslie	<b>\$98,000</b>
<b>Women All Stars</b>	Leslie Kimerling Pia Seth	Chris Walker Brandy Williamson	<b>\$59,000</b>
<b>Virgin America</b>	Steve Friedheim	Faraz Kahn Elhadji Mare	<b>\$55,000</b>
<b>Ivy League All Stars</b>	Jacques Swanepoel	Martin Heath Daniel Ramirez	<b>\$53,000</b>
<b>Young Leadership Committee</b>	Corey Gildart Yasser El Halaby Ron Kamden Bryant Rich	Chris Callas Mawa Ballo	<b>\$46,000</b>

# STREETSQUASHERS CONTINUE TO TRAVEL THE WORLD!

This summer, a number of StreetSquashers broadened their horizons by traveling outside of New York City to take part in a variety of academic, squash and leadership summer opportunities. Many of our middle schoolers received their first taste of the great outdoors, through sleep away camps in upstate New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Over fifty select high school students spent the summer enriching their minds by participating in pre-college programs, NUSEA exchange programs, leadership expeditions, and squash camps that allowed them to travel the world. From intense squash training in England to becoming global citizens through a service-learning trip to Guatemala, StreetSquash summer travelers gained valuable experiences that they would love to share with you during your next visit to StreetSquash!



- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Columbia University Summer Program - New York, NY           | 8. Williams College Squash & SAT camp - Williamstown, MA                                | 14. Baltimore Squash Exchange trip - Baltimore, MD        |
| 2. Camp Herrlich - Patterson, NY                               | 9. Phillips Exeter Academy (Upper School and Access Exeter Summer Program) - Exeter, NH | 15. Denver Urban Doubles National Tournament - Denver, CO |
| 3. University of Rochester Pre-College Program - Rochester, NY | 10. Detroit Squash Exchange trip - Detroit, MI  | 16. Denver Squash Exchange trip - Denver, CO              |
| 4. Syracuse University Summer College Program - Syracuse, NY   | 11. NUSEA Deerfield Summer Elite Squad - Deerfield, MA                                  | 17. Germantown Squash Camp - Philadelphia, PA             |
| 5. Camp Dudley - Westport, NY                                  | 12. NUSEA Stanford Summer Squad - Palo Alto, CA   | 18. Universal Squash Camp - England                       |
| 6. Brown University Pre-College Program - Providence, RI       | 13. StreetSquash Newark Exchange trip - Newark, NJ                                      | 19. Service Learning trip - Guatemala                     |
| 7. Christodora Summer Experience - Berkshires, MA              |   | 20. Fresh Air Fund - various locations                    |
|  |   | 21. NUSEA Citizenship tour - various locations            |



# GUATEMALA SERVICE LEARNING TRIP 2014



From top left: StreetSquashers spend the day helping local construction workers plant a foundation of a wall outside a school. Nick Little '15 and Nasean Catron '14 challenge Guatemalan children to game of Trouble. StreetSquashers pose outside their Posada (Hotel) before heading back to the United States.

Over the past 4 years StreetSquash has taken a small group of students on a service-learning trip to a developing country. Our first two service adventures (summer 2010 and summer 2012) were to Nicaragua, and this past summer, for our third service-learning trip, we traveled to Guatemala to volunteer with Limitless Horizons Ixil, a nonprofit organization based in the small town of Chajul. StreetSquash Staff Tai Garcia and Sasha Diamond-Lenow chaperoned two rising college first years and seven rising high school seniors on this amazing 10-day adventure.

Limitless Horizons Ixil's mission is to "create opportunities for the indigenous youth, women, and families of Chajul, Guatemala, to develop the academic and professional skills needed to effect change in their lives and community." StreetSquash was able to be a part of aiding this mission by supporting

some of the Limitless Horizons Ixil programming, including working with staff at the first community library of Chajul; supporting the Colegio San Gaspar, a high-quality middle school in Chajul that partners with LHI; and learning about the Artisan Program, which provides income to LHI mothers by selling items they have weaved specifically for the program.

In one of our major service initiatives, StreetSquash students put on a "library party" for Chajul youth with a library card with the support of the community library staff. This event included teaching the youth to play four square and yoga, and offered activities like face painting and drawing. StreetSquash students also taught the entire group (which included over 50 children) how to do the Cha Cha Slide!

StreetSquash students also hosted a reading hour and game

day for children at the library. StreetSquashers and staff split into groups to read in English and in Spanish to the students and then chose some of our favorite games (Bananagrams, Mancala, Uno, and puzzles) to teach and play with the students.

Our second major service project was to work with skilled carpenters and student volunteers from the Colegio San Gaspar to build a retaining wall for the school to prevent flooding in the rainy season. StreetSquash students and staff withstood scorching heat and high elevations to dig, level, and remove soil to create the space to begin building the wall. We also moved large rocks, and even larger bags of sand and concrete mix in an impressive effort by all. Students manually mixed mortar and placed rocks all without a complaint.

*(continued on page 18)*

# “EVERYBODY IN THE VAN, LET’S GO!”

## College Trips: StreetSquashers Hit the Road to College!



StreetSquashers on the road to visit colleges

**T**his is how every College Prep trip begins. We load up two 15-passenger vans with 10th and 11th grade StreetSquashers, duffel bags, squash racquets and snacks in tow, excited for a weekend away from New York City. We inevitably hit Friday traffic crossing the George Washington or Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, but nobody cares (except perhaps the drivers). We quiz students on which direction we’re driving, seeing if they know where Albany, or Worcester, or Lancaster is, while we let the student navigator take charge of the radio (at least for now). On the most recent trip upstate, the navigator was Kyrell ‘16, who turned out to be more than a navigator and DJ; he also divvied out snack like a full-time staff member: “you each get

one fruit snack, one carb, and we have to make this last the whole weekend so I’ll only be handing out snack every 4 hours”. He also took the liberty of reading the printed out itinerary, but kept mum about the things he knows are supposed to be surprises, like where we were eating dinner (Cracker Barrel), the planned night-time activity (bowling), and who was rooming with whom in the hotel that night.

These details matter for the students invited on these trips, maybe more than which colleges we’ll be seeing, though that might change by the time we get to touring campuses. At info sessions, like a recent one at Utica College, in a big room full of parent-child pairs and trios, our group always stands out. StreetSquashers are the source of most of the questions at these events, like “How does applying Early Decision or Early Action affect financial aid?”.

Next we go on a tour. These happen rain or shine...or snow, or sleet. Tours are when students really get to see what it would be like to be a college student. We sit in college classrooms, comparing the experience of a big lecture hall or small seminar room to high school. We eat in the

dining hall, getting a preview of the temptations and delights that might lead to the dreaded “freshman 15”. We experience how long it takes to walk from the library to the gym, imagining a future balancing school-work as a college athlete. We usually get the chance to take a tour from a StreetSquash alum; on these tours, previously shy students open up and ask their real questions, and our guides share the unofficial scoop about their personal experiences on campus.

On the drive back home on Sunday, having visited four or five schools over the course of the weekend, some students conk out, while others try to make the magic of the trip last as long as possible. They cheer when bad traffic slows our return to the city, they exchange phone numbers with new friends, and they finish filling out written reflections on the colleges we visited. In one, Joetta ‘16 comments, “I loved Hobart. I got to play squash here which really made me feel at home. And StreetSquash alumni go here which makes me feel like I have a chance.” ●



StreetSquashers listen to alumni talk about their experience in college, StreetSquashers given a tour by alumnus Divine Wing ‘14, Hobart William Smith ‘18.



# PEER MENTORING PROGRAM: GETTING STUDENTS ORGANIZED!

**P**eer Mentoring is off to a fast start. Beginning last year, many 10th and 11th grade StreetSquashers eagerly volunteered to support and guide younger classes in getting acclimated to StreetSquash and dealing with age-related challenges. Mentors and mentees meet weekly for either an academic or a squash session. Mentors receive monthly training and have biweekly check-ins with staff.

One mentor/mentee pair has been going strong for over a year. Imani Dawson (11th grade) and Danaeja Craig (8th grade) first hit it off last fall. One of Imani's contributions was to help Danaeja improve her organizational skills. At one of their first weekly meetings, Imani paused

the tutoring session and asked Danaeja to pull out all of the items from her book bag. The crumpled loose paper in Danaeja's book bag flew out wildly. Seeing a pressing need beyond academics, Imani helped Danaeja sort her work and create folders for each subject. Danaeja was resistant, but cooperative, and at one point asked, "What if my book bag is unorganized again tomorrow?" "Then we will do this again tomorrow, until you get it right," responded Imani. And through this peer-mentoring relationship, Imani has both supported and challenged Danaeja to become a successful student.

This year, many new mentor/mentees will be matched and hopefully they can be as successful as this one. Potential

mentors submitted their applications in October in a competitive application process. Just as in years past, the goal will be to select mentors who exemplify StreetSquash's values and care about making this community better for years to come. ●



*Christopher Little '16 helps mentee Jahquan Gilford '19 with his homework.*

## STREETSQUASH EARNS NUSEA INDIVIDUAL PROJECT AWARDS!

**I**n the spring of 2014, students from multiple urban squash programs competed in the Urban Individual National tournament. In order to partake in this tournament, it was required of all students to create a

project answering the question "What type of virtue do you stand for?" Students from various age groups ranging from U13 to U19 sent in paintings, drawings, and essays to the National Urban Squash + Education

Nicholas Little: In order to express his stance on determination, Nicholas created a Game of Life board game depicting the struggles he faced on his path to reach his goal. Despite these "Haters" (as he calls them) that he may encounter, Nicholas says that he will not stop until one day he owns his Tech Company, called L Tech.

Brandy Williamson: Earning 2nd place, Brandy produced a compelling poem regarding the importance of love. In her poem, she stretches its meaning, relating love to a "Hershey bar that is filled with kisses" and the connection a mother has when "she looks at her newborn child". ●



*Nick Little's '15 board game showing the importance of determination*

Association (NUSEA). Out of hundreds of projects, two StreetSquash works stood out from the rest. Nicholas Little '15 was awarded 1st place for his creative Game of Life board game depicting his value for determination and Brandy Williamson '14 earned 2nd place for her powerful poem about why she stands for love.



## GUATEMALA

*(Continued from page 15)*

Limitless Horizons Ixil also set up cultural experiences for StreetSquash including a tour of the city of Chajul, daily lunches in the homes of LHI families, tortilla making lessons, weaving lessons, Ixil language lessons, an opportunity to dress in typical Chajul clothing, and a viewing of the documentary "Granito" about former Guatemalan General and Dictator Efraín Ríos Montt and his indictment by a Guatemalan court for crimes against humanity during the Guatemalan Civil War. We were also privileged enough to meet and listen to a story of a Guerrilla fighter from the Civil War.

After seven eye opening days in Chajul, Guatemala StreetSquash was also able to spend a day hiking to Mil Amores Farm in Acul where we had a delicious lunch and relaxed at Lake Atitlan, where we kayaked, swam and encountered scorpions and huge spiders in our rooms!

When asked what was the best part of the trip, every StreetSquash student spoke to the relationships they developed with the families and youth in Chajul. Of special note is the family who managed the hotel we stayed in during our seven days in Chajul. We were able to experience living with and getting to know a family though it was not an intentional part of our

trip. There were early mornings, late nights, modest accommodations, and 10 days without cell phone service, but it was a difficult test we were able to pass. Everyone was prepared to give up the comforts of home to immerse him or herself in a new culture where they could learn about the culture and its history, and in small ways, help this amazing community. For the staff, it was incredible to watch the students step outside their comfort zones and push themselves. For the students, it was a life changing moment they will never forget. The experience was one in a million and we thank all those who contributed to making this possible! ●





# SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM: HELPING MORE THAN JUST THE STUDENTS!



From left: Ren (Ryan Mack '19), Mary (Daneaja Craig '19), Debrah (Cequidra '05, Grandmother of Che'zelle '15 and Guytaul '10), and Eileen (Aunt of Cameron Gibson '16) present their awards for completion of "The Parenting Journey"

Since its inception in 2010, the StreetSquash Social Work Program has had a full time position and has worked with more than 6 masters level interns from local universities. During this time, the Social Work team has worked with students and families to improve and deepen the services and support that StreetSquash can provide. Specifically, we aim to address the needs of our growing community by providing individual and group counseling, sexual health education, mental and physical health education, crisis support and intervention, conflict prevention and intervention, leadership development and outside referrals for medical, educational and family needs.

In the 2013-2014 school year, the social work team also implemented weekly girls and guys groups, leadership groups, a peer mediation club, and

monthly parent nights and workshops. One of the programs highlights has also been a semester long parent group called "The Parent Journey" from which, to date, 15 parents/guardians have graduated.

For the current year, we have just hired a second full time social worker

and are welcoming two new interns from Fordham and Columbia. We are excited to be able to offer even more support to our students – including those in college! – and their families and look forward to another great year for this important initiative! ●



Sasha Diamond-Lenow (left) and Tai Garcia (right) pose with StreetSquash parent/guardians. From left: Orlyn (Naheem Allen '21), Nodeline (Claudine Senat '19), Lavern (Caleb Basco '17), Linda (Justin Torres '19), Marcia (Zoe Albertinie '17 & Mickella Albertinie '16), and Jean (Imani Dawson '16).



# STREETSQUASH YLC HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL SOIREE



The StreetSquash Young Leadership Committee (YLC) is a group of young professionals committed to supporting StreetSquash and the children and families it serves. Acting as StreetSquash's champion and ally in New York's young professional circles, the YLC meaningfully impacts the lives of students in the program through mentorship, volunteering, tutoring, fundraising and more.

The first YLC volunteer day took place on Saturday, November 1st, during which students had the opportunity to get to know and play squash with YLC members in their practice. Members of the YLC also came to StreetSquash on November 6th to speak with 11th and 12th grade students about their career experiences and provide

valuable insights on how to navigate the job world as they move on from their high school careers.

This year the YLC hosted the Second Annual StreetSquash Holiday Soirée on December 3rd, a tremendously successful social event and fundraiser, which provides a forum for young professionals to gain exposure to StreetSquash and our mission and a chance to have fun in the process. It was an incredible evening with over 200 guests in attendance and over \$28,000 raised.

Though the YLC will not be hosting its annual Match & Mixer at the Tournament of Champions in Grand Central Station, it will be playing a role in the NUSEA Gala, which will be

celebrating the organization's 20th anniversary. The event hopes to raise \$2 million for NUSEA organizations and will commemorate twenty years of hard work serving students in our communities.

We look forward to a great year for the YLC with lots of opportunities to get involved and volunteer. By connecting young, energetic professionals to students in Harlem, the YLC aims to provide more quality support for StreetSquash students and their families.

If you are interested in getting involved with the YLC, please contact Charles at [Charles@streetsquash.org](mailto:Charles@streetsquash.org)



**BOAST**



## STREETSQUASH WELCOMES NEW STAFF!



**Dyna Tucker** - Dyna graduated from Franklin and Marshall in 2009 with a BA in Psychology. She then earned a Social Work degree from Long Island University-Post Campus in 2014. Dyna has now taken on the role of Director of Social Work.

**Edgardo Gonzalez** - After graduating from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 2013 with a BA in Psychology, Edgardo joined StreetSquash as the Americorps VISTA Outreach Coordinator. This year, he has taken on the role of Senior Squash Director for 6th and 7th grade.

**Liz Gatling** - Graduating from StreetSquash in 2010, Liz took her experiences to Franklin & Marshall College where she graduated with a BA in Psychology and Studio Art in 2014. Upon graduation, Liz joined StreetSquash as the Americorps VISTA Outreach Coordinator.

**Jennifer Ng** - After graduating from Columbia University in 2010 with a BA in Neuroscience and Behavior, Jennifer completed an Ed.M. in Prevention Science and Practice from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2012. In 2014,

Jennifer assumed the role of Director of College Access & Success at StreetSquash.

**Caleb Garza** - Caleb graduated from Connecticut College in 2014 with a BA in Mathematics. In 2014, Caleb accepted the role as Academic Director for 6th and 7th grades.

*From left: Dyna Tucker,  
Caleb Garza, Edgardo Gonzalez,  
Jennifer Ng and Liz Gatling.*

# THE EVOLUTION OF COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Since the first high school graduating class in 2005, StreetSquash's College Access and Success program (CAS) has grown and changed to meet the needs of the more than 120 students that have completed the high school program. Once students graduate, StreetSquash continues to support them through scholarship opportunities, college visits, care packages, professional development workshops, internships, family dinners, alumni squash nights/tournaments or simply conversations with whomever stops by and visits. Over the past nine years the program has evolved, passed many milestones and witnessed numerous academic, professional and personal achievements. Here are some of the best hits, as well as a list of students that have received or are currently pursuing a degree or certification.



## 2004

**An optional College Prep Program begins at StreetSquash.**

## 2005

StreetSquash has its first graduating class. All graduates are provided with a small educational stipend each semester that they are a full-time student, for up to eight semesters.

- Lonnie Gibbs is the first person from StreetSquash to play on a men's college squash team (Wesleyan University)

### Class of 2005

- Sonia Gaona - SUNY Binghamton University\*\*, Hunter College\*\*\*
- Lonnie Gibbs - Wesleyan University\*\*
- Taralyn Gonzales - Morgan State University\*\*
- Christian Knight - Monroe College \*
- Justin Martin - SUNY at Old Westbury\*\*
- Allagha Padilla - Mohawk Valley Community College\*
- Tajon Rice - CUNY City College\*\*
- Gabriela Romero - Trinity College\*\*
- Davian Suckoo - SUNY University at Buffalo\*\*
- Melvin Ventura - Bronx CC\*/Lehman College
- Sade Watts - CUNY Hostos Community College\*

## 2006

### Class of 2006

- Daequan Andino - Art Institute of New York City\*
- Asia Navarette - College of New Rochelle\*\*

## 2007

- Melvin Ventura is the first person to receive his associate's degree from Bronx CC.

## 2008

An Alumni Outreach position is created to provide support for the growing number of students in college and to create professional development training and opportunities for the soon-to-be college graduates.

### Class of 2008

- Ladonis Gaillard - Quinnipiac University\*\*/City College (M.A. 2015)
- Keith Keith - SUNY Binghamton University\*\*
- Gabrielle Robinson - Franklin and Marshall\*\*, Long Island University (M.A. 2015)
- Sheena Suckoo - Franklin and Marshall\*\*

Alumni Outreach go on the first college visits. College visits are a chance to see the students on their college campus, meet and work with their advisors, and take the students out for a nice meal!

- Gabby Robinson and Sheena Suckoo are the first StreetSquashers to play on a women's squash team (Franklin and Marshall College)
- 2009 - StreetSquash graduates its first 4-year students!
- Taralyn Gonzales is the first StreetSquasher to work for at another NUSEA program (Squashwise)

StreetSquash hires its first alumni to run the PE in Public Schools program.

\*Associate's Degree, \*\*Bachelor's Degree, \*\*\*Master's Degree, ^Other certificate



## 2009

### Class of 2009

- Jordano Coffie - Borough of Manhattan CC
- Jennifer Houston - Lincoln University\*\*
- Jamel Key - Laguardia Community College (2015)
- Cody Levy - SUNY Buffalo State\*\*
- Jennifer Moses - SUNY Albany\*\*/Hunter College (M.A. 2016)
- Shanese Patterson - SUNY Plattsburgh\*\*
- Melissa Sandoval - Franklin and Marshall\*\*/American University (M.A. 2015)



## 2011

StreetSquash hosts the first Alumni Cup in the winter, and the Alumni vs. Current StreetSquash Tournament in the Spring.

- Ayanna Hall is the first Gates Millenium Scholar and attends Barnard College.

2011 - StreetSquash hosts the first Alumni Cup in the winter, and the Alumni vs. Current StreetSquash Tournament in the Spring.

- Ayanna Hall is the first Gates Millenium Scholar and attends Barnard College.

### Class of 2011

- Dekeiya Armstrong - Pace University
- Tynisha Avila - Ithaca College
- Sugeiry Betances - Bates College
- Nasir Ellis - New School
- Julian Hackney - Bates College
- Ayanna Hall - Barnard College
- Krystal Harris - SUNY Buffalo State
- Britini Jackson - Sanford Brown^
- Daequan Leslie - Hostos CC
- Diamond Martin - Laguardia CC
- Jasmine McElveen - Colgate University
- Dachele Parker - Mount Holyoke College
- Rokya Samake - Bates College

## 2012

The College Prep/Alumni program hires its third staff member, Director of College Transition to provide support with the overwhelming number of students applying and attending college. The program is renamed: College Access and Success Program!

- StreetSquash hires its first Americorp Vista - Gabby Robinson!

### Class of 2012

- Danny Cabrera - Hobart & William Smith
- Hakeem Elliot - New York University
- Ayanna King - Mount Holyoke College
- Raheem Logan - Wesleyan University
- Jazmin Matos - Franklin and Marshall
- Kbudah-Torah Musah - Ursinus College
- Terrance Rose - Guttman CC\*/Hobart and William Smith
- Sion Sennon - Welders Union

2010 College Visits to F&M visiting then Liz ('11) and Sheena ('08).



## 2010

The first Beginning College Program takes place in the summer to prepare the college-bound for the social and academic challenges before they leave for school in the fall.

### Class of 2010

- Paige Babilonia - Rutgers University\*\*
- Kenneth Blassingame - CUNY Hostos CC\*
- Shelby Bozeman - UMD Eastern Shore
- Rakey Drammeh - Bates College\*\*
- Elizabeth Gatling - Franklin and Marshall\*\*
- Rosmery Hidalgo - SUNY Buffalo State\*\*
- Samantha Matos - Bates College\*\*
- Diosmiry Rodriguez - Bates College\*\*

2012 Alumni Cup







## 2013

CAS begins to develop and emphasize support for the all of the commuter students with the first Family Dinners for first years and the Alumni Open Squash Nights.

- StreetSquash hosts and participates in the first NUSEA Alumni Individuals.
- Sonia Gaona ('05) is the first student to complete her Master's at Hunter College, for School Counseling.
- Melissa Sandoval is awarded the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship and attends American University.
- Elhadji Mare is the first Posse Foundation Scholar and attends Trinity College.

### Class of 2013

- Tishina Bowden - SUNY Buffalo State
- Richard Brown - Clarkson University
- Jennifer Bueno - Guttman CC
- Ramsey DeJesus - NY City Tech
- Sade Evans - Lafayette College
- Taylor-Von Frazer - American Musical and Dramatic Academy
- Jasmine Haskins - Medgar Evers College
- Patricia Francis-Hall - Dickinson College
- Jamal Joseph - Elon University
- Anthony Little - Hostos CC
- Kevin McMikle - Cazenovia College
- Amar Mooror - Hostos CC
- Floyd Perkins - Laguardia CC
- Maiyah Rushing - Alfred University
- Isamar Rodriguez - Lehman College
- Fatou Sangare - Cazenovia College
- Fatou Thiam - Laguardia CC
- Nicholas Watkins - SUNY New Paltz
- Raven Williams - Borough of Manhattan CC
- Davon Wood - SUNY Alfred State



## 2014

The CAS alumni staff shift from Transition and Alumni to College Success for Commuter Students and Residential Students - refocusing on services to meet the needs of the students.

- StreetSquash hosts its first College Graduate Dinner.
- StreetSquash Harlem and Newark have four StreetSquash Alumni working full time as Academic and Squash Directors - Liz ('10) Vista at Harlem, Sam ('10) Squash Director at Newark, Dios ('10) and Taralyn ('05) Academic Directors at Newark

### Class of 2014

- Mawa Ballo - Connecticut College
- Nasean Catron - Laguardia CC
- Marcus Colon - Alfred University
- Taylor Cook - SUNY Buffalo State
- Suhen Dayisi - SUNY Oneonta
- Tosin Elegba - Laguardia CC
- Georgie Exinord - Cornell University
- Ronnie Green - SUNY Broome CC
- Alvin Haigler - Cazenovia College
- Elhadji Mare - Trinity College
- Kamayera Nassoko - Le Moyne College
- Lamont Pitt - Laguardia CC
- Daniel Ramirez - SUNY New Paltz
- Susana Sandoval - SUNY Fredonia
- Gabrielle Tobias - Cazenovia College
- Oumar Traore - SUNY Old Westbury
- Jenai Williams - SUNY Oneonta
- Travone Williams - SUNY New Paltz
- Brandy Williamson - Mount Holyoke College
- Divine Wing - Hobart and William Smith





**STREETSSQUASH**  
HARLEM

**AN URBAN YOUTH  
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

**StreetSquash Harlem**

40 West 116th Street  
(Entrance on West 115th  
between 5th Ave. & Lenox Ave.)  
New York, New York 10026  
P: 212.289.4838 • F: 212.996.3219  
[www.streetsquash.org](http://www.streetsquash.org)

# HARLEM

## MISSION

FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 1999, STREETSSQUASH IS AN AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM THAT COMBINES ACADEMIC TUTORING WITH SQUASH INSTRUCTION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING. STREETSSQUASH'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, STREETSSQUASH AIMS TO HELP EACH CHILD REALIZE HIS OR HER ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL POTENTIAL.