



Empowering a child....priceless.

The Milwaukee Tennis & Education Foundation (MTEF), a local chapter of the national organization co-founded by Arthur Ashe, is gearing up for its 12th Annual MTEF Tennis Ball Dinner & Auction, titled "*Empowering a child....priceless.*" This year's event, held Friday, September 24th at Milwaukee County Zoo's Peck Pavilion, has established a fundraising goal of \$150,000 and 450 attendees. Last year MTEF raised over \$400,000 to support our various programs, with \$115,000 coming directly from the Tennis Ball.

MTEF was formed with the goal of providing central-city children a neighborhood-based, free program that combines education, fitness, nutrition, and life skills development with the sport of tennis. Over the years MTEF has steadily grown to a year-round organization offering a pathway of opportunities to Milwaukee's youth. In 2009, MTEF served 3,200 children with an intensive academic, tennis and life skills program. Since inception MTEF has won numerous local, sectional, and national awards while providing education and tennis to over 17,200 deserving Milwaukee children.

Last year, MTEF was one of only three NJTL chapters in the U.S. (out of 500) to be given a four star (the highest) rating for our work in non-profit youth programming. In addition, two MTEF children won college scholarships for their performance in the First Serve Student Athlete Competition. In December, MTEF was awarded the 2009 Midwest Section's NJTL Chapter of the Year, the fourth time we have won this distinctive award. Our partnership with MPS Community Learning Center's (CLC) Wellness provided tennis and life skills programming to 29 CLC sites and 1,200 children.

In the past, MTEF has been fortunate to have many individuals and businesses contribute with generous donations. I am writing to invite you to help with this year's Tennis Ball. As we prepare for our auction, we are asking your support in the form of an in-kind auction donation. A commitment from you will provide a strong base for what is sure to be an outstanding event for a very worthy cause.

You will be acknowledged in our extensive printed program and on the bid sheet accompanying your donation on the auction table. We will also provide you with the appropriate receipt to assure a tax deduction for your contribution (MTEF IRS Non-profit #: 39-1317061).

Sincerely,

Jay Massart
Executive Director

Teresa Tighe
Auction Chair

Christy Beckmann
Tennis Ball Chair