



# The Match

Spring 2023

[www.mtef.com](http://www.mtef.com)



## Introducing Little Tennis Libraries

### MTEF Embarks on Project to Expand Sport in Milwaukee



A rendering of a Little Tennis Library bin.

**M**TEF aims to make a racquet by opening Little Tennis Libraries in Milwaukee, beginning in May, which just happens to be National Tennis Month.

If that sounds a bit bizarre, it's not if you start thinking how many tiny front yard libraries have sprung up in neighborhoods all over the country.

If you can provide books to help children and adults develop reading skills, why can't you provide racquets and balls to help people develop tennis skills?

Working with the Milwaukee Recreation, MTEF will install the libraries – bins filled with racquets, balls and information on how to play tennis — in seven city parks and playfields with tennis courts. Unlike most of MTEF's programming, which is focused *Continued on Page 11*

## Above and Beyond!

### 23rd Tennis Ball Proves Itself a Soaring Success

**I**f you didn't have a terrific time at the 23rd Annual MTEF Tennis Ball, there's only one reason. You weren't there.

From the moment the doors opened at the Italian Community Center until the band, Part Time Models, sounded the last note, the atmosphere was electric at what turned out to be, financially speaking, a record-setting event. (More about that later.)

During the cocktail hour, the buzz of lively conversations rose above it all as hallgoers searched the silent auction tables for "must haves" and pulled corks from a glass container then waited to see which bottle had the bright yellow tennis ball with the corresponding number.

Between sips of beverages and nibbles of hors d'oeuvres, guests eagerly participated in two new events – the Basket Challenge and the Gift Card Pull.

The former provided a chance to test your skill in tossing five tennis balls into a basket. Each successful attempt earned a raffle ticket for the Lottery Ticket Tree. An extra ticket was awarded to those who succeeded with all five balls. The winner was drawn and announced later in the evening.

The latter provided an opportunity to win gift cards to restaurants and other businesses valued at up to \$100.

The dinner that followed did not disappoint, with a choice of entrée that included lemon-caper piccata chicken with campanelle pasta and seasonal vegetables; braised beef short ribs with

*Continued on Page 8*



Debbie Schaefer

Earl Arms and Roslynn Pedracine discussed a silent auction item at the 23rd MTEF Tennis Ball.

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## MTEF Officers and Directors

**President:** Michael Buckholdt

**Treasurer:** Christopher Schifano

**Secretary:** Sarah Cyganiak

**Directors:** Earl Arms, Sean Bailey, Michael Buckholdt, Mary Fran Cahill, Timon Corwin, Sarah Cyganiak, Trevor D'Souza, Jeffrey Davis, Donna Drosner, Brian Ellenbecker, Makda Fessehayee, Elizabeth Horneffer, Kurt Janavitz, Ted Jordan, Mark Jensen, Jodi Keller, John Kendler, Ian Martin, Charles Mulcahy, Thomas O'Byrne, Caran Quadracci, Rajit Saluja, Denny Schackter, Christopher Schifano, Michael Sperling, Vukasin Teofanovic, Gina Vecera, Joanne Williams, Lisa Winders

### Past Presidents

Charles Mulcahy (1975-2006), David Pelisek (2006-2008) Thomas O'Byrne (2008-2010), Trevor D'Souza (2010-2012) Michael Sperling (2012-2014), Timon Corwin (2014-2016) Elizabeth Horneffer (2016-2019), Kurt Janavitz (2019-2021)

### Advisory Board

John Austin, William Henk, Daniel O'Brien

## MTEF Staff

**Executive Director:** Rachael Badt

**Tennis Director:** Dusan Medan

**Controller:** Ann Keenan

## A Time to Celebrate



Ben Kastenmaier kissed the trophy he received for winning the Level 7 Consolation competition at Wisconsin Athletic Club- Lake Country in late December.

## Learning the Ropes

### It's All About Tennis and Expanding MTEF's Assets

**A** little something that you might not know about me is that even though I've been married to a tennis pro for 10 plus years and I've had this job for the last year and half, I didn't start playing tennis until five months ago.

The stars aligned and there was a beginner class available at a time I was, so I signed up. Bonus, my husband is the teacher.

There were a couple motivating factors to finally taking the proverbial plunge. One was my husband and my 7-year-old daughter play and I'd like to be able to play with them. The other was the kids of MTEF. How can I help them or the program if I don't understand it? As MTEF goes through a transition in tennis leadership, I wanted to explore how one learns the game and use some first-person knowledge to explore how we teach and what we provide.

MTEF has had a great fall and winter season. We have more than 55 kids participating in our school year TEAM program. We have been able to continue to provide weekly tennis, at least twice a week for all players, as well as enrichment experiences including working out together at Orange Theory Fitness – Mequon and watching a UWM Milwaukee vs. Marquette

women's match. I am so thankful to our awesome part-time coaches who have kept things bouncing on the court. A big shout out to Idris Bandai, who has stepped up and led all our tennis programming.

I am excited to welcome, Dusan Medan, to MTEF as our new tennis director. Together we will assess the who, what, when and how of all MTEF does and determine how we can continue to thrive and grow moving forward. *(See story on Page 3.)*

I'm looking forward to a camp-filled summer with new experiences available for kids of all ages. My personal tennis goal is to be able to help on the courts this summer or maybe rally with a couple of our older players.

I am enthusiastic about our new Little Tennis Library project and the role MTEF will play in providing more accessibility to the sport for those living in Milwaukee. *(See story on Page 1.)*

Recently, I was having a bad day at my lesson. Nothing seemed to be going my way and I felt like I should just go home. My husband looked at me and pointed out that I was holding my racquet wrong. Ugh! He reassured me that I would be OK.

"A bad day of tennis is better than a day without tennis" he said.

I would think that many of you would agree this is true.

As always, I thank you for your investment in and support of MTEF. Feel free to reach out with thoughts, questions, comments, or tennis tips.



**Rachael Badt**  
Executive  
Director's  
Message



# Welcome to the MTEF Family!

## Dusan Medan Joins Staff as Tennis Director

**M**TEF is proud to announce that Dusan Medan has been hired as its new tennis director.

The foundation and its programming aren't totally unfamiliar to Medan, who was a star player on the Marquette Golden Eagles men's tennis team from 2007-2010, an era when TEAM participants served as ball runners at the Milwaukee Tennis Classic tournament.

As a player, Medan was the most-decorated singles player in the team's history, scoring 88 wins and reaching No. 64 in the NCAA rankings. He also was a two-time All-Big East selection.

Medan's ties to Marquette stay strong. He joined the coaching staff there in 2016. He has been an associate head coach for the women's tennis team since 2019 and, more recently, the men's team as well.

As the MTEF position is part-time, he will be balancing those duties with his responsibilities at the university.

After graduation from Marquette in 2010, Medan returned to his native Serbia, where he worked in the hospitality industry.

In 2011, his passion for tennis drew him back and he earned his coaching certificate from the Serbian Tennis Association and became the high performance development coach for the Zivkovic Tennis Academy in Nis.

A year later, he returned to the United States as the junior tennis director at the Top Spin Racquet Club in Lexington, SC.

In 2014, he returned to Southeast Wisconsin as the junior development director for Western Racquet Club.

Medan and his wife Sophija live in Bay View. They have a daughter, 2, and another baby due in August.



Medan

## Where Are They Now?

### Cody Porter Is a First Responder in Menomonee Falls

**A** statement by former TEAM participant Cody Porter says a lot about how MTEF can impact the lives of the young people it serves.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for tennis. The friends I had made and mentors that impacted my life guided me to who I am now. The program and the game taught me responsibility, leadership, working as a team, and so much more."

Porter, now a lieutenant with the Menomonee Falls Fire Department, entered MTEF's TEAM program when it was in its infancy and quickly established himself as one of its star students.

He recalled he was in fifth or sixth grade when he joined an MTEF after-school class at a local park. He took to tennis immediately.

"Esme Ehr taught the first class I was in and her friendly outgoing personality drew me in," Porter said.

Next came participation in the summer session, which resulted in his being chosen as one of the players to participate in the year-round TEAM. It proved an excellent match.

As time passed, he won scholarships to NJTL summer camps and became one of the first two TEAM participants to play high school tennis.

"Once I got to high school, I joined the New Berlin West tennis team and was on varsity all four years," Porter said. "I can only



Cody Porter, seen with his daughter, is a lieutenant with the Menomonee Falls Fire Department.

attribute that to the dedication the MTEF staff and coaches in taking the time with me!"

"Tennis was one of the few things I considered myself good at growing up," Porter said. "It helped my self-confidence and social skills."

After a year at Carroll University in Waukesha, where he also played men's tennis, he decided to pursue a career in the fire service.

"I went to get my certifications in firefighting and became a paramedic. I obtained my bachelor's in emergency medical services administration from Columbia Southern University," he said.

Porter, who still plays tennis recreationally, has been with the Menomonee Falls department for 10 years.

"I love what I do and being able to help people is such a great career," he said.

Porter and his wife Nicole, a nurse, have been married for seven years and have a daughter, 3, who he said "keeps me busy."

Does he have any advice for youngsters involved in MTEF's current programming? Indeed he does!

"Practice as much as possible and take time to correlate how the game of tennis correlates to life, whether it's fighting back when you're down-and-out or being humble in victories. Utilize MTEF to its fullest by listening to coaches and asking questions – they might have more insight than you think!"

# MTEF Adds Four New Members to Its Board

**F**our new members were elected to the Milwaukee Tennis & Education Foundation's board of directors at the group's Dec. 15 meeting.

**Earl Arms** is a familiar face to many Milwaukeeans as a sports anchor/reporter at WJDT-TV (CBS58) from 2013-2017 and the host of *Black Nouveau* on Milwaukee PBS (Channel 10)



He currently is public relations strategist at Northwestern Mutual Life.

Arms played varsity doubles at Milwaukee's John Marshall High School and still plays tennis recreationally.

As a board member, he says, "I want to support bringing tennis to those who may not traditionally have access to the game. Tennis is a way I've been able to maintain healthy, lifelong relationships across generations and my goal is to work so others have that same opportunity."

**Sean Bailey**, now tax manager at Huberty CPAs in Sheboygan, has an MTEF history that dates back to a period from 2004-2010 when he worked as an after-school trainer/tennis



instructor and summer tennis instructor with the foundation's TEAM program. He also served as a volunteer tennis instructor from 2010-2015.

He holds a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and subsequently completed general education and business courses at Marquette University.

At Huberty, his responsibilities include detailed review and signing of closely held partnership and individual federal and state income tax returns, research into current tax law and prospective changes to the tax law, office management of the Ozaukee market, mentoring and training of staff and development of the tax planning service line.

"I was fortunate to be an instructor in high school and college and saw firsthand the impact the program has," Bailey said. "I'm excited to be a steward of the organization on the finance and facilities committee to continue growing the reach of MTEF."

**Brian Ellenbecker** is a financial planner and strategist at Shakespeare Wealth Management, where he advises high net worth individuals and their families. He earned a bachelor's



degree in finance at Marquette University and holds extensive certifications in various aspects of financial planning.

Tennis he says, is one of his great passions. In winter, he plays three times a week at the Paley Tennis Center in Glendale. When summer comes, he ups the frequency to six to seven days a week, including on two 4.0 level teams.

"My hope in working with MTEF is to give back to the tennis community that has given me so much over the past 30 years," said Ellenbecker. "It's important to keep tennis accessible to everyone who has an interest. MTEF does that, while also teaching other important life skills."

**Jodi Keller** has served on the foundation's Tennis Ball committee since 2021, specializing in securing auction items for the event.



She is married with four children, all of whom have served/worked in MTEF's Summer Camp program at both the Merrill Park and Brown Deer sites.

Tennis is a passion for Keller, who began playing tennis in 2005 and currently plays USTA State League at the 4.0 level. A State League highlight, she says, was winning the state championship while playing at the 3.0 level.

All four of her children played varsity tennis in high school and, so far, two have gone on to play club tennis in college (UW and Marquette), while a third played D3 at St. Norbert College.

Keller holds a BBA in finance and accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"I have enjoyed working with MTEF through the Tennis Ball committee," Keller said. "I look forward to becoming even more involved with fundraising and hope to be an asset wherever needed."



## All About Fitness

**I**n late January, a group of MTEF participants and their parents tried a new type of workout and took a class at Orangetheory Fitness in Mequon.

Great fun, which included lots of sweating, was had by all.

Thank you to the gang at OTF Mequon for working our butts off.



# Looking Ahead

## MTEF Is Gearing Up for a Summer Full of Tennis!



will return to Merrill Park, 461 N 35th St., beginning on June 20. Each site will host two three-week sessions.

Players of all levels are welcome to attend camp as the lessons are adapted to the player's skills. All will learn and strengthen the fundamentals of the sport. The camp will continue to offer a robust off-court curriculum including art, nutrition, fitness and life skills.

The biggest change this year will be an adjustment of the age groups at Merrill Park. Camp itself will be geared to kids 8 to 14. This year, those who are 15 can be part of our new Coaches in Training (CIT) program, where they will spend half the time helping on the court and half learning tennis. In addition, we will have staff opportunities for past participants who are 16 or older.

As they did in 2022, Merrill Park campers will have an opportunity to spend part of each session at Rainbow Day Camp in Fredonia. There also will be several days when Brown Deer campers can attend.

As always, we plan to end summer camp with our Summer Showdown tournament. The event will be held July 31-August 3 at Merrill Park. It will be open to all Summer Camp players and the public.

In addition to the youth summer camp, MTEF again will offer other tennis experiences including Tiny Tot classes at Brown Deer and adult classes through MKE Rec.

So what's totally new?

Let's start with the addition of adult experiences in Brown Deer – including Tennis 101 classes in May and August and weekly match play. Match play will be on Tuesdays for beginners and Thursdays for intermediate/advanced, from June 13 through August 10. The program is designed so players enhance their skills in a competitive environment while having some fun.

Summer will end with Girls Pre-Season Skill Session, a four-day program aimed at helping girls, who play or hope to play on high school teams, get ready for their tryouts and tennis season.

Scheduled for Monday, August 7 through Thursday, August 10 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Merrill Park, the four days will be a mixture of skills/drills and match play experience.

For more information on any of these programs, visit [mtef.com](http://mtef.com).

It may be early spring, but MTEF is deep in the planning stages for a summer filled with tennis for all ages. Although much will remain the same, there are some changes comin'!

MTEF's Summer Tennis Camp, for grade and high school age players, is a staple of our seasonal offerings. Thanks to our continuing partnerships with the Milwaukee and Brown Deer recreation departments, we again will have two locations in 2023.

Our half-day camp will start June 12 at the Brown Deer High School courts, 8060 N. 60th St., Brown Deer. Our full-day camp

## 10,000 Times Thank You

MTEF is grateful to the Whitefish Bay Women's Club for their very generous \$10,000 grant, which will be used to support our youth programming.

MTEF Board Member Trevor D'Souza (second from left back row) and Executive Director Rachael Badt (third from left back row) are shown with the women who attended a Mardi Gras-themed meeting on Feb. 1, which is where the check was presented.

The funds came from the recent sale of the group's clubhouse.



## Grants and Gifts

### Grants

Robert Auxer Fund  
CBINT Social Action Committee  
Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation  
Harri Hoffman Family Foundation  
Peck Foundation, Milwaukee LTD  
USTA Foundation  
USTA Midwest Tennis & Education Foundation  
Whitefish Bay Women's Club  
Windover Foundation  
Wisconsin Tennis Association

### Corporate

AmazonSmiles Foundation  
R.W.Baird Foundation  
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GE Foundation  
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### Individual

Susan Abelt  
Tami Bealert  
Mary Fran Cahill  
Sharon and Mark Cameli  
Jeffrey Davis and Rachel Schneider  
Trevor and Maureen D'Souza  
Jeff Davis and Rachel Schneider  
Sara Engel  
Susie and David Fondrie  
David R. and Britt Frank  
Linda Gorens-Levy and Michael Levy  
Heather Hanson – *In honor of the Pupovac Family*

Jack and Donna Hill  
Ted Jordan  
Charlene Kordus  
Marjorie and Thomas Kozlowski  
Krainz Foundation  
Katie Levenhagen – *In memory of Erv Rother*  
Chuck and Mary Beth Malm-Krucky - *In memory of Herman (Hawk) Hawkins*  
Sue and Michael Miller  
Judith Neal  
Patrick O'Brien  
Elizabeth O'Connell  
Angela Orentas  
Caran and Joel Quadracci  
Rena and Tony Ragonese  
Mike and Ellen Mary Raster  
Kevin Reardon  
Jodi Ristau – *In honor of Donna Drosner*  
Denny Schackter and Patti Lock  
Chris and Debbie Schifano  
Frank and Kathleen Thometz  
Tyler Trimble  
Michelle Vail  
Steve Vitale  
Sam Walker- *In honor of Cyrus Mokry*  
Helene Weisz  
Julie Gorens-Winston and James Winston

### Pickleball Fundraiser

Mary Fran Cahill  
Jeanine Cooley  
Sarah Cyganiak

Trevor and Maureen D'Souza  
Brian Davidson  
Jeff Davis and Rachel Schneider  
Pearl Dcruz  
Michele and David Deuber  
Donna Drosner  
Rebecca and Brian Ellenbecker  
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Ott and Gaby Brentener  
Al and Kathy Hentzen  
Herb III and Dianne Hentzen  
Wendy and John Mikkelsen  
Bob and Marilyn Warnimont  
Charles and Peggy Yang

## A Surprise Legacy Gift

Sometimes a surprise arrives just when you need it. That's what happened when Executive Director Rachael Badt slit open a newly arrived envelope to discover a \$30,000 check inside.



Auxer

The money was a legacy gift from Robert L. Auxer, who passed away in 2021 at the age of 79.

Although Auxer, an avid tennis player, was a longtime supporter of MTEF, his generous bequest was totally unexpected.

A graduate of the Milwaukee School of Engineering, he spent most of his working life in the printing business. Many of those years were spent overseeing the printing department at Allis Chalmers. After the widely known manufacturer closed its operations, Auxer opened and operated his own printing company, Chenequa Graphics, in Menomonee Falls. His obituary in The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel noted he spent much of his leisure time playing tennis and socializing with his friends in the tennis community. It also described him as "a caring neighbor and friend" to those who lived near him.

Legacy giving is important to organizations such as MTEF, so we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the late Auxer for his generosity.



Ensure the future  
of tennis, education and mentoring  
for Milwaukee's youth by naming  
the Milwaukee Tennis & Education Foundation  
(EIN: 39-1317061) in your will or estate plan.

To learn more,  
contact your financial advisor.



# Be a Friend! Donate Now!



Over the past 22 years, MTEF's programming has touched the lives of more than 40,000 underserved Milwaukee area youngsters with tennis instruction and mentoring plus academics, life skills and fitness/nutrition education.

Until the ranking system changed, the USTA Foundation designated MTEF as a 4-Star NJTL chapter for which put it among the top 10% of the 250 US chapters. MTEF was recognized as the National NJTL Chapter of the Year in 2006; the Midwest NJTL Chapter of the Year in 2004, 2005 and 2009 and the national No. 2 First Serve chapter in 2010.

MTEF programs are possible because of the generosity of Friends in our community — people like you, who help us sustain and grow our programming. You can make a big difference in a child's life with your gift of any size.

Donations can be made online at [mtef.com/donate](http://mtef.com/donate) or mail this form with your check or credit card information. Friends will be recognized in the next issue of *The Match*. Here are some ways you can help:

## Program Sponsorships

- ☐ Summer Programming
  - ☐ Merrill Park
  - ☐ Brown Deer
- ☐ Year-round TEAM
- ☐ Tutors and tennis instructors
- ☐ Scholarships
  - ☐ Herbert D. Hentzen, Jr. Scholarship
  - ☐ General Scholarship

## Area of Greatest Need

☐ Please use my donation wherever it is most needed.

## Volunteers

Another way to be a Friend is to donate your time. Projects/areas of need are:

- ☐ IT/Website
- ☐ Data Input/Analysis
- ☐ Committee Interest
- (Tennis Ball, Media, Fundraising, Program etc.)
- ☐ Mentor

## To Donate Now

Copy this page. Make your choice(s) from the list above, fill in the information below and mail this page to:

MTEF, 3000 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53210. Make checks payable to MTEF.

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Or log onto [www.mtef.com](http://www.mtef.com) and click on *Donate* or *Get Involved*. Donations are fully tax-deductible.

# Ball Did Not Disappoint

**From Page 1** Yukon gold potato puree, carrots with a red wine reduction or Parmesan and ricotta ravioli with sauteed wild mushrooms, spinach and white truffle brown butter. Catered by Bartolotta Restaurant Group, the meal also included a green salad with vinaigrette dressing and, for dessert, turtle cheesecake.

The program, which ran concurrently with the dinner, opened with a welcome from Rachael Badt, MTEF's executive director. Badt highlighted MTEF's 2022 programming and thanked all present for their support.

She then introduced the evening's emcee/auctioneer, TMJ4 sportscaster Lance Allan, who was making his third consecutive appearance in the role.

Allan, in turn, introduced Mike Buckholdt, whose welcoming remarks likely set a record for the shortest speech by an MTEF president in history.

In his brief speech, Buckholdt noted that the true value of tennis comes "from the personal and professional relationships that we create while playing the game."

Many of those present, he added, find it easy to join a league or drill group or book a court.

"It is not that easy in the city," he said. "At MTEF, we are working hard to provide kids in the City of Milwaukee the opportunity to play and learn the game of tennis as well as enjoy the lifelong benefits of the sport, like most of us do."

The success of the Ball, MTEF's largest fundraiser, he said, "is critical to our success as an organization" as it provides the financial resources that fund programming and provide opportunities for the young participants.

Then it was on to the real business of the evening – raising money with the live auction.

The affable Allan did another superb job of encouraging and cajoling the audience into opening their pocketbooks for high-priced items that ranged from a diamond bracelet, a chance to attend a Bucks game in a luxury suite, and a chance to invite up to 20 people to watch a Brewer's game from a Club Founders Suite to tickets to the 2023 French Open.

MTEF could not have found better ambassadors to spread its message than Ben Kastenmaier and Marissa Jones! The two longtime TEAM program participants delivered their messages like pros. Each joined MTEF at the age of 8 and each now plays varsity high school tennis – Kastenmaier at Brown Deer, Jones at Nicolet.

Kastenmaier pointed out that MTEF is a close-knit community that has provided him not only with tennis skills but also friendships and, importantly, strong role models.

"But to me the best thing about MTEF is the opportunities, he said. "The thing is, tennis is usually a rich sport. Most professional players have had a personal trainer since they were little. And personal trainers cost anywhere from 50 to hundreds of dollars per hour. Access to indoor courts during the winter can cost even more.

"But here's a program that gives access to kids who don't have a lot of money for trainers, racquets and indoor courts. Here's a program that engages kids to play and have fun playing the sport we love," he said.

Jones, who coincidentally was celebrating her 16th birthday,



Debbie Schaefer

**Marissa Jones and Ben Kastenmaier spoke about their experiences as MTEF TEAM participants**

recalled how, when she first joined MTEF, she didn't know things such as the USTA and the US Open existed or what a grand slam was. Year by year she worked to improve her game and knowledge through both practice and playing in tournaments.

"Participating in tournaments with MTEF expanded my knowledge of tennis, like court placement, grips when holding your racket, and playing tie breaker," she said. "Playing in tournament-level matches also helped me improve my confidence as a player and an individual. I learned to take things in stride and keep moving forward, no matter if I lost a match or did not do too well on a math test I studied hard on." (*Speeches are posted in entirety on mtef.com.*)

The event would not have been complete without recognition of Tony Broaden's contributions during his time as MTEF's tennis director. Broaden recently resigned the post to become a Wauwatosa police officer but hopes to stay involved with MTEF as time permits.

"I want to thank Tony," said Badt, the executive director. "To him it was a passion, not a job. He's the kind of role model we want for our kids."

Badt then unveiled a *Kudos Board* containing messages and memories from TEAM participants, their parents and MTEF board members and fellow coaches.

In his response, Broaden noted: "How much MTEF has changed me for the better. Thanks to all!" Suffice it to say, he walked away from the mic to a standing ovation – just before Kastenmaier sprinted back onstage to observe: "I often think about who I want to be in my 20s and beyond. It's Coach Tony."

Now the news you've been waiting for!

This year's Tennis Ball was the most financially successful in foundation history, netting slightly more than \$100,000 — approximately 25% above the top forecast for the event.

Will this record be broken in 2023? You'll just have to come to the 24th MTEF Tennis Ball on Saturday, Nov. 4, when the Italian Community Center will once again be the venue and help us do just that!



## Tennis Ball Sponsors and Supporters

### Sponsors

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Caran and Joel Quadracci

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#### Auctions

##### Live Auction

R.W. Baird – Drosner, Phillips, Rist Group

Donna Drosner

Jeff and Angela Dubofsky

Julie and David Magnasco

Quad

Caran and Joel Quadracci

The Tennis Channel

##### Silent Auction

Aurora Sports Health - Grafton

Babolat

Mary Fran Cahill

Matt D'Atilio

Deubel Family

Jeff and Angela Dubofsky

Elite Sports Clubs – Brookfield

Flanners

David J. Frank Landscape Contractors

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Betty Mathison

Miami Open

Missing Links

Molson Coors

MTEF

MUHS Tennis Parents

MukLuks

Orange Theory Fitness

Palermo's Pizza

PNC Bank

Prolite Sports

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ReFresh Aesthetic Center

Renaissance Milwaukee West

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Somnvie

Stretch Lab

Vukasin Teofanovic

Rob Wood of Shorewest Realtors

Kay and Richard Yuspeh

Erica and Eric Zipp

#### Wine Pull

MTEF Board Members

#### Supporters

Tracy Alonde

Kim and Karen Anderson

Lindsay Ashenden

Idris Badani

Bridget and Sean Bailey

Alex Bear

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Jen and Matt Loverine

Therese Lynott

Rachel and Carmello Maddente

Annette and John Malloy

Hartmut Marschall and Roseanne Krahn

Amy and Nate Marshall

Erick and Jamie Martinez

(Continued on Page 10)

## Tennis Ball Committee

Rachael Badt, Timon Corwin, Makda Fessehayee,

Beth Horneffer, Jodi Keller, Patti Lock,

Caran Quadracci, Denny Schackter,

Dianne Veenendaal

**Emcee/Auctioneer:** Lance Allan

**Food and Beverage:** Bartolotta Restaurant Group

**Centerpieces:** Dianne Veenendaal

**Video:** Michael Garcia and New Journey Marketing

**Registration volunteers:** Anne Lovitz, Stef Sager,

Kelsey Tolar, Helene Weisz

Gina Vecera

Washington Highlands Friends

Danny Westerman

Western & Southern Open

Western Racquet Club

Lisa Winders and Ryan Bingham

Wisconsin Athletic Club – Lake Country



Some of the players gathered for a group shot at the Pickleball & Tennis fundraiser. Mike Sperling, who originated the event, is at left in the front row.

## Pickleball Party Posts a Profit

**C**all it the luck of the draw but for two years in a row MTEF has been able to hold its annual Pickleball & Tennis fundraiser weather or not.

In 2021 cold and wind made themselves part of the action. This year, record rains threatened the event until almost the last minute. But they stopped in time for the sodden courts to dry and the event proceeded under generally pleasant conditions.

Held Sept. 12 at North Shore Country Club in Mequon, the fundraiser is the brainchild of board member Mike Sperling.

Paid attendance was 43 including 23 who signed up to play pickleball and 12 who signed up for tennis.

Pickleball is said to be the fastest-rising game in the United States.

For those unfamiliar with pickleball, it's a fast-paced fun sport played on a small court, about the size of a badminton court. Players use paddles rather than racquets to hit a small, hard plastic ball. In essence, it melds some elements of badminton, tennis and paddle tennis.

The event, which ended with a delicious taco buffet and beverages, raised \$2,391.

Stay tuned for the 3rd Annual Pickleball & Tennis Fundraiser in the fall of 2023.

## Tennis Ball Sponsors and Supporters



Debbie Schaefer

The silent auction tables drew a crowd at the 23rd MTEF Tennis Ball.

Judith and Robert Scott  
Ivana and Marko Selak  
Stuti Shankar  
Igor Shusterman  
Sara and David Sinese  
Jessica Snyder  
Eldon Swenson

Jim and Sherry Tolkan  
Tyler Trimble  
Chris Urban  
Gina and Dave Vecera  
Diane and Carl Veenendaal  
Richard Vicent  
Erich Weidenbener

Jodi and Greg Wait  
Keith Weller  
Carolyn and Scott Wille  
Joanne Williams  
Lisa and John Wilson  
Lisa Winders and Ryan Bingham  
Trica and Steve Wollersheim



# Meet Our Kids

**M**et Our Kids features young people involved in MTEF's year-around TEAM (Tennis, Education and Mentoring) programming.

**Casey Heu**  
4th Grade  
McKinley Elementary

**C**asey has been involved with MTEF for two years participating in both Summer Camp and TEAM. She is fun, friendly and always ready with a joke. When asked what she likes best about being a part of MTEF, her first answer is the tennis, quickly followed by meeting and making new friends.



Over the last couple of months, Casey has seen improvement with her forehand but she will tell you that she is still working on her backhand. We know she will keep at it.

Outside tennis, Casey participates in "Girls on the Run." She loves to paint, draw, and make bracelets. She also enjoys board games and watching movies with her dad on the weekends.

**Gabe Vasquez**  
9th Grade  
West Allis Hale

**G**abe has been a part of MTEF for about two years. His favorite part of the program is "the way the coaches and the players create a friendly environment so that learning to play tennis can be both fun and extremely effective."



Gabe is a team player on and off the court, always going out of his way to be friendly and kind to the other participants. He told us that he keeps coming back to MTEF because of the people but we know that there are many players who come back because of Gabe.

Gabe will be trying out for his school team this year and we predict he will make it.

When he isn't playing tennis, you will find Gabe playing soccer. He also has participated in a couple of teen triathlon races and says he might do that again in the future.

## Little Tennis Libraries Open on May 6

*From Page 1* on youth, the little libraries will be a true community project available to people of all ages.

"Anybody who wants to can open the bin, grab a racquet and try it out. If they like the racquet, they can keep it, we're open to that. Or they can just borrow, play and return. We just really want to get racquets in hands and have people playing and having fun," said Rachael Badt, MTEF's executive director.

Badt said she discovered Little Tennis Libraries while surfing Facebook.

"I was throwing around some thoughts about how to get more people access to equipment and had this idea. I wondered if anyone else had ever done something similar and I found a Facebook group about some that were started in Maryland. I saw what they were doing and decided we could bring it to life here."

Further research brought Badt to the website of the East St. Louis (IL) Community Tennis Association, which originated Little Tennis Libraries several years ago. Badt contacted them and they

were delighted to help her get things underway in Milwaukee.

To celebrate the opening of the Little Tennis Libraries and National Tennis Month, MTEF will host a community Play Day at Green Bay Playfield, 3818 N. 8th St. on Saturday, May 6 from 3-5 p.m. Activities will include tennis games, music and more. The libraries will be available through early October.

MTEF hopes the first season of Little Tennis Libraries will be successful and become a fixture at additional area courts. "Our plan is to grow the program every year," Badt said, "This year we are starting with seven locations spread out around the city. The sites where it was used will be continued next year and we may add a couple more locations."

If you have tennis equipment you'd like to donate to the Little Tennis Libraries, feel free to drop it off at the MTEF Offices inside the Mary Ryan Boys and Girls Club, 3000 N. Sherman Blvd.

Or for pickup, contact MTEF at (414) 442-8195 or [info@mtef.com](mailto:info@mtef.com).



## Little Tennis Library Sites

### Lincoln

300 W. Lincoln Ave.

### Wedgewood

S. 63rd St. and W. Warnimont Ave.

### Dyer

151 N. 80th St.

### Merrill

461 N. 35th St.

### Green Bay,

3872 N. 8th St.

### Enderis

2983 N. 72nd St.

### Pumping Station

1311 E. Chambers St.

Milwaukee Tennis & Education Foundation  
Attn: Rachael Badt  
3000 N. Sherman Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

**SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US....**



**SERVE & CONNECT**  
**2023**

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 3** **10AM - 1PM**

**SHERMAN PARK TENNIS COURTS - 3000 SHERMAN BLVD**



**AN ALL AGES ALL ABILITY EVENT - EVERYONE WELCOME**

*Save the Date*

**24TH**  
**ANNUAL**  
**TENNIS**  
**BALL**

**SATURDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2023**