

Save the Date!

The 20th Annual EPATT Dinner
Guest Speaker: Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Wednesday, May 9, 2012



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Fall 2011

Welcome to the first issue of epatt *news*, our new quarterly newsletter. EPATT is off and running on the courts and in the classroom. This school year we have 114 super kids and 140 volunteer tutors.

We are honored that Dr. Condoleezza Rice will be the guest speaker at our 20th Annual Dinner. Read on to learn more about our Summer Program, the first Tutor Alumni Reunion, and the EPATT students past and present who have been impacted by EPATT.

Special thanks to our generous supporters for helping us change the game and transform lives.

Happy Reading!
Dave



Dave Higaki, EPATT Executive Director

Touchdown for Kids: A Win-Win!

This season, the 49ers are not simply in it to win it. Thanks to an innovative fundraising concept suggested by one of EPATT's biggest supporters, Tad Taube, the 49ers are sharing their triumphs with underserved Bay Area youth. Besides pledging \$100,000 to the effort, the Koret Foundation and Taube Philanthropies have partnered with the 49ers Foundation to support EPATT and five other youth organizations by donating \$500 for every 49ers field goal, interception, and sack, \$1,000 for each offensive touchdown, and \$1,500 for each defensive touchdown. The 'Niners are having a great season and EPATT is grateful to share in their success.



TAUBE
PHILANTHROPIES



Sharrese Smith and Alyssa Hayes

Let's Hear it for the Home Team!

What truly sets EPATT apart from other after-school programs is that it has a parent participation component. Parental involvement is required and parents are held accountable as members of the "team" supporting their child. At EPATT workshops and meetings, parents learn how to consistently implement productive study skills and habits at home.

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What People are Saying about EPATT

Dr. Condoleezza Rice:

"I am honored to be involved in EPATT's mission... (EPATT) aims to meet the desperate educational needs of the children in our backyard. I am proud to partner with them in this common goal."

USTA National Board Member Judge Andrew A. Valdez:

"We copied the program out of Stanford, the EPATT program. We decided that instead of waiting for the kids to come to my court...we would target 9, 10, 11 year

Sharrese Smith is a model EPATT parent. Her daughter, Alyssa Hayes, is a 7th grader and has been in EPATT for two years. Alyssa, a natural athlete who plays basketball, volleyball, and tennis, has a full schedule. Sharrese stays on top of Alyssa's practices and games and is in regular communication with Alyssa's teachers. Additionally, to help support Alyssa's active lifestyle, Sharrese revamped her family's eating and sleeping habits in favor of healthier ones. As a result, Alyssa's entire family has benefited from the new regime.

Paying it Forward



Wesley Merritt (1997)



Wesley Merritt (2011)

In 1995 middle-schooler Wesley Merritt could be found stealing tennis balls from outside of the EPATT tennis courts at Cesar Chavez Academy in East Palo Alto. He developed his tennis skills by hitting balls against his garage door until he found the courage to start going to EPATT tennis practice. Two years later he began tutoring at EPATT.

Although tutoring was not his initial reason for joining the program, through his one-on-one relationships with his tutors and EPATT staff, he realized that EPATT offered students much more than tennis instruction and tutoring. The family atmosphere and the dedicated staff were very inviting. Soon Wesley couldn't imagine his life without EPATT. He credits EPATT with helping him to achieve his goals of graduating from high school and attending college. While studying at Foothill College, Wesley returned to EPATT as a volunteer, and was eventually hired on as Tennis Coach and Office Manager. Now nearing his final year of college, Wesley aspires to teach 3rd grade, preferably in an under-served school district like Ravenswood in East Palo Alto, where we know he will be an inspiration to his students.



Toakase Veal with awards

Toakase Veal Wins Regional Writing Award

EPATT student and Palo Alto High School freshman, Toakase Veal, was awarded a prize by AVID* for her essay on "How Technology Affects Society."

Toakase credits EPATT with helping her achieve her potential. She joined EPATT in 4th grade but was dismissed from the program in 6th grade. Kesha Weekes, EPATT Academic Coordinator, reached out to Toakase, and reminded her of her goals: to complete high school and have a career. It was exactly what Toakase needed to hear and she re-applied to the program. She came back to EPATT and last spring entered a local writing competition sponsored by AVID. She was competing against AVID students from four Bay Area counties. She

was delighted when she heard she had won. Kesha Weekes holds Toakase in high esteem, "Toakase has great potential. She's smart, talented, and she has a great support system here at EPATT. She has what it takes and we know she can do whatever she sets her mind to."

* AVID is a year-long enrichment and motivational program based in the Bay Area.

olds because those are critical times for children in terms of them choosing friends and choosing identities."

Kubal Match Met!

Thanks to Trish and Larry Kubal for pledging to match up to \$35,000 towards the development of an essential content management system. EPATT donors met the Kubal Match, together raising over \$70,000 for this critical need.

Aces for Kids Scores!

Over \$70,000 was raised for EPATT at this summer's Bank of the West Classic. Profound thanks go out to Tad Taube and the Taube Family Foundation for sponsoring this exciting and fruitful event.

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EPATT extends heartfelt thanks to Marcia Pade for her years of dedication and service as Board Chair.

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Kerstin Johnson and Irene Palafox

Tutor Reunion a Success!

Former EPATT tutors visiting over Stanford's Reunion Weekend were reunited with their former tutees at our first Tutor Alumni Reunion. There were shrieks of laughter and surprise as old friends saw each other for the first time in years. After seeing her former tutee from over 11 years ago, tutor Rachel Salberg tearfully expressed, "This was a lot more emotional than I thought it would be."

Former tutor, Kerstin Johnson, credited her EPATT experience as the reason she changed her career path from being pre-med to teaching. She is currently an Intervention Specialist in the Cupertino Union School District. We plan to make the Tutor Alumni Reunion an annual event.



Summer Program 2011 Participants

EPATT Returns to East Palo Alto

This past July EPATT turned back the clocks and, for the first time since 1998, operated a summer program on the courts of Cesar Chavez Middle School in East Palo Alto - EPATT's original home. In 1998 EPATT relocated to Stanford University. Thanks to a generous capacity-building grant from SV2, the Packard Foundation, and the Sandhill Foundation, EPATT, in collaboration with the Ravenswood School District, ran a pilot summer program for 30 youth.

The goal was to impact program participants with a combination of language arts, life-skills and tennis. Led by Keshia Weekes, EPATT's Academic Director, the program ran for five weeks. Classroom instruction was provided by school teachers trained by Keshia. The tennis staff consisted of EPATT alumni, many who first learned the game on the Chavez courts. The pilot program was a huge success. Participants, EPATT staff, and school staff are eager to offer more EPATT programming at Cesar Chavez.

From the Editor

I joined EPATT in October 2011 as its Development and Communications Coordinator. One of my first tasks was to produce this newsletter. It offers a window unto EPATT students and their achievements, as well as our hard-working volunteers and devoted staff. We aim to show you in these pages how your gifts of time, money, or support have made an indelible impact on EPATT students. Your generosity provides them with a caring environment in which they can -- and do -- thrive, on the courts and off.

Please feel free to email me at amy@epatt.org if you have any questions about EPATT or this newsletter.

Best wishes,
Amy

About EPATT

EPATT is a non-profit youth development organization for K-12th grade students. Our program creates effective partnerships with families, schools and volunteers to achieve academic and athletic success. Through one-on-one tutoring, tennis lessons, direct instruction, college counseling and parent education, we prepare students for a productive future.

Our game-changing components include:

1. One-on-one academic tutoring for all students.
2. Academic skill development and literacy skill building programs.
3. Post-high school preparation that includes college and career counseling.
4. Life skills instruction for grades 6th-8th through the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network.
5. Parent education, assistance and advocacy.
6. Team-building enrichment activities to encourage student sense of team and ownership.
7. Fitness for all students through tennis instruction and health/nutrition education.

Learn more about EPATT by visiting www.epatt.org.

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