

IN THE COMPANY OF NORWALK'S FINEST

IN THE LOBBY of Norwalk Police Headquarters, near pictures of distinguished officers and community leaders, there hangs a framed photo (right) of 44 Norwalk Grassroots Tennis youngsters and 5 uniformed Norwalk police officers. They include the Chief, the Deputy Chief, the Lieutenant overseeing community affairs, and the Chairman of the Norwalk PAL. It was taken in August at the annual NGT-Police Day Jamboree at Roodner Court. It speaks powerfully for itself.

The photo's placement at headquarters speaks of the respect and affection NGT has earned among the organization that is perhaps the most knowledgeable and concerned about at-risk inner-city children. It suggests how comfortable our children are in the presence of the officers. It tells of the power



of a tennis racquet to make friends. The expressions on the faces show how glad everyone is to be part of the occasion.

We are greatly honored to be represented in that vestibule. We hope to continue to justify the confidence in our program that the photo proclaims.

We constantly are reminded of the challenges our youngsters face. It is wonderful to be facing them together with such a progressive police department.

TO BROWN UNIVERSITY, AND THE HALL OF FAME

We are lucky to have friends in high places!

WE RECEIVED AN INVITATION this spring to bring a group of young NGT players to Newport, Rhode Island for a visit to The International Tennis Hall of Fame with its unrivaled tennis museum (prominently featuring the life of Arthur Ashe) and for a chance for them to play on its groomed grass courts -- all without charge.

In mid-August a van picked up ten of our youngsters and two chaperones at 7:45 A.M. at Roodner Court, the largest public housing development in Norwalk. En route, the van stopped at Providence, Rhode Island to accept an invitation from Brown University to tour the campus. At 11:00 A.M. our party was ushered into the Admissions Office where a Brown student conducted a

tour of classrooms, dorms and the grounds. Our youngsters saw signs of extensive construction all over the campus. Brown clearly is on the move! Our kids were very enthusiastic.

At the Hall of Fame, our players saw a film about the history of tennis, including pictures of court tennis, a game played in the middle ages by kings in their palaces. They also got a free lesson on the grass courts. They were home in Norwalk by 8:30 P.M.

We are grateful to our Friends at Brown and the Hall of Fame and to Kathy Sharp and Claire Mezidor for being careful and cheerful chaperones without whom these visits would not have been possible.

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The Director's Column



David Kimani

THIS ISSUE OF THE VIEW tells about our youngsters' trip to Brown University and to the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport. "Trips" can seem like a day off, or a change of pace. But, as I see it, they mean a lot more.

It is hard to realize how restricted the experiences of many of our kids are. The world

that is so wide for youngsters in mainstream America does not exist for them. Their neighborhood is narrow and they get out of it infrequently.

The trip to Brown showed our youngsters first

hand, not from a paper or electronic image, what it feels like at a college campus. The visit to the Tennis Hall of Fame helped open their eyes to the history of tennis and they saw what a rich and exciting story they are part of.

Our trips also send a message: That these things are open for them. These are not experiences that are reserved for other people only. Our tennis program exists to be the enemy of alienation. We exist to invite our youngsters out of isolation from American culture and to demonstrate that we can help them make it so. We exist to show them what their efforts in school and on court can lead to. The trips we offer are an important part of that strategy.



WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE....

THAT SANJANA CHINTALAPUDI, 14, a member of our program for three years, is the winner of a \$5,000.00 USTA NJTL funded college scholarship!

The USTA "student athlete" competition that Sanjana won is open to junior players from 32 inner-city community tennis associations like ours, located in all parts of the country. Scholarship winners are chosen on a point system that weighs school grades and performance in USTA sanctioned junior tournaments and leagues. Sanjana earned all A's this year at Brien McMahon High School, won five New England tournaments and performed well on the NGT USTA Junior team. She finished first by a wide margin in the 2010 competition year for girls 14 and under.

We asked Sanjana how it felt winning the scholarship. "I can't wait," she said, "to try to win it again next year."