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**The 2016 event was held in January 2017, so most donations will appear in the 2017 Annual

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Tennis Teams Skidmore College Men's Tennis Elinor Smith Sportime Schenectady Shachi Svivatza University at Albany Women's Tennis Team Eric Washburn Emily Williams Mary Austin Williams Xiaohung Zue

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*We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our annual report Please feel free to contact us with any discrepancies. Thank you.

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FROM THE board president

Dear Friends and Supporters of 15-LOVE:

In reflecting upon the past year, we are again very grateful for all that has been accomplished and for the valuable support that has been provided by so many. Our 27th year continued the legacy Arthur Ashe began with us in 1990 of "teaching the game of life" through tennis and education. Our mission has not changed over these years, while our program has expanded.

The well-known historian David McCullough stated in a speech given at Hillsdale College in 2005 that "good things in life are not handed to us in perfect condition, all ready to run smoothly in perpetuity, instead lives need to be attended to and improved and made to work better." So it is with the hundreds of lives we become connected with through 15-LOVE each year. We have the opportunity and the privilege to make a positive difference in many lives. We often witness noticeable improvements in kids' selfesteem and life direction.

We cannot guarantee success, nor can we control outcomes, but we strive to influence attitudes and behaviors. We regularly hear stories about how our 15-LOVE kids conduct themselves during matches on the tennis courts. These stories are overwhelmingly positive. How you play the game of tennis, we find, is correlated to how you live your life. The lessons that are instilled in our participants of fair play and good sportsmanship are demonstrated regularly both on and off the courts.

Every life is a work in progress. We want every kid to become aware of their own inherent value and worth With this awareness comes the opportunity for each child to unwrap their own potential. The instructors are the positive role models that our participants learn from and then emulate. Most of our instructors are themselves products of the 15-LOVE program, having learned from other instructors before them. This formula of discovery and cultivation has been working now for 27 years!

We thank you all for helping us fulfill our important mission and make a positive difference in many lives. Without your support none of this would happen. Credit goes to our talented staff, headed by our gifted executive director Amber Marino, who are on the front lines making certain that life's lessons are learned and then lived.

God Bless.

Herb Shultz President

MISSION STATEMENT

"To reach out in a loving, caring way to the youth of the Capital Region, using tennis as the medium, especially those in the inner cities." Within that overall mission, the following seven operating themes are emphasized:

- 1. Stress education
- 2. Promote good health (emotional and physical)
- 3. Instill positive values
- 4. Foster multi-cultural relationships

- 5. Support family preservation
- 6. Advocate good sportsmanship

7. Encourage community service



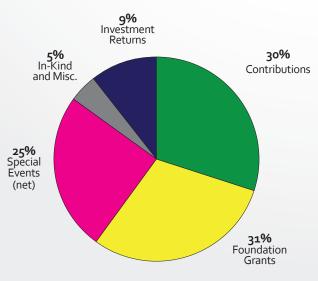


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION **DECEMBER 2016**

Cash	\$172,292
Investments	\$493,968
Receivables	\$2,000
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,648
Current Assets	\$677,908
Net Property and Equipment	\$336,564
Total Assets	\$1,014,472
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	\$15,165
Net Assets	\$999,307
Total Liabilites and Net Assets	\$1,014,472

WHERE FUNDS **COME FROM**

Assets



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2016

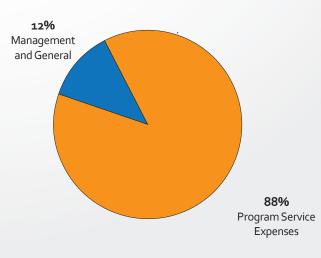
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Revenues	
Contributions	\$133,100
Foundation Grants	\$126,092
Special Events (net)	\$104,844
In-Kind and Miscellaneous	\$18,236
Investment Returns	\$44,178
Total Revenues	\$426,450
Expenses	
Program Service Expenses	\$331,112
Management and General	\$45,432
Total Expenses	\$376,544

Change in Net Assets \$49,906 Net Assets

December 31, 2015 \$949,401 December 31, 2016 \$999,307

HOW FUNDS WERE SPENT



Partners & Sites by County

Albany School of Humanities, Albany VI, Arbor Hill Community Center, Arbor Hill Community School, Arbor Hill Park, Blessed Sacrament School, Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys, Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls, Catholic Charities, Delaware Ave. Boys' & Girls' Club, Delaware Community School, Eagle Point Elementary School, Fairwood Apartments Tennis Facility, Giffen Elementary School, Henry Johnson Charter School, Hoffman Park, Hoffman Teen Center, Israel AME, Krank Park, Lincoln Park, Montessori Magnet School, New Scotland Elementary School, North Albany YMCA, Parsons Child & Family Center, Pine Hills Elementary School, Police Athletic League, Schuyler Achievement Academy, Sheridan Prep School, St. Catherine's Institute, Trinity Institute, and Westland Hills Park

Central Park, Central Park Magnet School, Craig Street Boys' & Girls' Club, Hillhurst Park, Jerry Burrell Park, Keane Elementary School, Martin Luther King Elementary School, Michigan Avenue Courts, Mt. Pléasant Boys' & Girls' Club, Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Quackenbush Park, Rotterdam Boys' & Girls' Club, Sportime, Steinmetz Park, VanCorlaer Elementary School, Wildwood, Woodlawn Park, and Zoller Elementary School

Carroll Hill Elementary School. Frear Park. Hope 7, Prospect Park, Public School #2 (Troy), Public School #18 (Troy), Rensselaer Boys' & Girls' Club, Riverfront Park, and Troy Boys' & Girls'



FROM THE executive director

Dear Friends:

2016 was a year of transitions and collaborations that made 15-LOVE a stronger organization. In December of 2015, we hired Gabrielle LaMountain to work with us full time. For months, it was just the two of us in the office. I must admit that Brie didn't just "get by," she found ways to make the organization stronger. In March of 2016, Cindy Lyons joined our team part-time and went right to work on our Fore, Love & Money Event. She jumped right in and was amazing, making it the most successful event we've ever held! In June, Mia Ertas joined our team part-time to help us with all the details – she is an amazing photographer, finds great things for our social media, and print flyers and publications. She has made things so much better than I ever dreamed they could be. Of course, Domingo Montes is still here as our Program Director, working with the kids, setting up programs, and making sure things run smoothly outside the office. I first met Domingo as a teenager when he was in the program and I was an instructor. He has developed into one of the area's best tennis teaching professional with a passion for 15-LOVE and our kids that is unmatched. The best part about this staff we now have is that the chemistry is so strong, yet we are all so different. We all respect each other's talents, and no job is "above" anyone. We chip in and make things happen. For years I told people that I scrubbed the toilet here, and sometimes I still do, but now we all chip in – without being asked – and that is just wonderful. I don't think the size of our workplace qualifies us for any workplace awards, but it's certainly the best place I've ever worked. There has never been a day that I haven't wanted to come to work. Not many people get to

Besides our internal staffing transitions, we were asked by the USTA Foundation to pilot a new STEM Program designed for middle school students. While that training in February was exciting, we had no idea how much it would affect our programming in a positive way. We ran a STEM camp for our kids during the April school break week, and transitioned our summer off-courts for our older kids (ages 11 - 18) to STEM programming. The response was overwhelmingly positive. The wonderful part about the USTA Foundation's program is that it includes life lessons interwoven in the STEM programming, and relates some of the lessons to tennis (learning about spin and what tennis balls are made of, etc...)

We had a Siena Summer Service Scholar, Max, who had an interest in STEM and created a great program in our office for younger kids as well. All of that, coupled with connections of our new staff member, Mia, led to a partnership with SUNY Polytechnic Institute around our STEM programming, and it has truly transformed what we are able to provide our students. We already had strong literacy programs, so adding the STEM has made our educational offerings even more well-rounded.

In the Fall, I got a phone call out of the blue from Ellen Brickman. She wanted to make a donation in memory of her father, Norman Brickman, who had been a lover of tennis, avid player and supporter of 15-LOVE. Ellen brought her mother, Dorice, in to see what we do here, which was so special. As we spoke, Ellen decided to do something that would directly affect our Excellence Team players in perpetuity, so she made a generous donation to our endowment that would allow the interest to provide our Team Tennis players with a team shirt – something they have always wanted! 2017 will be their first year with Excellence shirts. They are thrilled and I was just so touched that Ellen thought of us to help honor her father.

I am looking forward to what the future will bring for 15-LOVE! We have such a strong and caring Board of Directors who truly are an important reason for the success of our program. Our friends, volunteers and supporters make everything we do possible, and always make it a little better. We have passionate volunteers who send emails about ideas they have for the program, and I just couldn't be happier when I get an email like that – not only for the help with new ideas, but because they care enough to be thinking about what us when they aren't here. I just can't thank you all enough for making 15-LOVE an organization that does whatever we can to help the children and families we serve, and is always working to improve. What an honor it is for me to serve this organization and our families.

With great appreciation,

Amber Marino

Executive Director



