Tenacity received a boost to its youth offering this summer when specially selected to team up with Boston Public Schools and Boston After School & Beyond on a pilot program funded by The Wallace Foundation for rising fourth graders in Boston.

The Wallace Foundation, which works to better the lives of children through improvements in public education, focuses on enrichment programs that offer low-performing students access to better academics.

Being selected by Wallace for the Summer Learning Project was “a huge vote of confidence in what we are doing,” explained Nad Eames, President & Founder of Tenacity. “We are focusing our efforts in the right places,” he continued, “opening up Tenacity to fourth and fifth graders to get them prepared for the rigors of middle school.”

Tenacity’s new Capacity Building Plan, The Next Chapter, now includes an Elementary Program for 4th & 5th Graders, introducing students and their families to Tenacity’s overall Pathway to Excellence, in preparation for the Middle School Academy. “When BPS contacted us about this pilot, we knew we had a perfect match,” added Eames.

The curriculum, much like what Tenacity and BPS are already doing in the Middle School Academy, was designed specifically for rising fourth graders, with integrated academic enrichment components. In the morning, after a healthy breakfast offered to all 123 selected students, the focus was on improving math, reading, and writing skills. After lunch, students enjoyed physical fitness and tennis games that integrated the math facts and vocabulary introduced each morning.

Even the literary topics were an integrated part of the program. Students read short stories about tennis greats Billie Jean King and Arthur Ashe and biographies of both Williams sisters. They finished with a novel, Tennis Trophy Mystery, by Cam Jansen, a well-known children’s mystery writer.

The goals: combat summer learning loss so students returning to school in the fall are grade-ready, introduce rising fourth graders to the Tenacity Pathway, which begins in fourth grade and continues through college or other post-high school endeavors, and create and strengthen our school-community partnerships to serve high-need students throughout the learning day and all year long.

The six-week program was delivered on week days at five BPS schools, with Fridays reserved

(Continued on page 2)
for field trips. The kids visited the NE Aquarium, The Science Museum and enjoyed a party at Constitution Beach on the final day with family members, program staff and school principals.

The staff, comprised of BPS teachers and Tenacity tennis instructors, met weekly to ensure the optimal integration of academics and sports for the students. An added complement to the program, a social-emotional component, was delivered under the advisement of Assoc. Professor at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Gil G. Noam. Students were encouraged to share personal challenges while the staff was trained to listen and respond with problem solving techniques.

The successful endeavor may lead to three additional summers of the program funded by The Wallace Foundation. Testing results of our efforts will be available by year’s end. Tenacity is grateful to The Wallace Foundation, BPS and Boston After School & Beyond for teaming with Tenacity.

**Summer Tennis & Reading Program 2011 Recap**

Tenacity’s Summer Tennis & Reading Program (STRP) completed its 12th season of providing Boston city youth a free program of tennis, reading and wellness—a winning combination that continues to bring thousands of kids into city parks for a safe, stimulating, and fun-filled program each summer.

“Combining games-based tennis instruction with reading and vocabulary workshops keeps the kids stimulated during the slow weeks of summer,” said Gary Phillips, Program Director. “And we expect an even greater number of kids next summer, thanks to the wonderful partnerships we have with Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the City of Boston,” he added.

Tenacity hired 45 of its own students, Middle School Academy (MSA) graduates including College Prep (CP) and Alumni (ASP) participants, during this past summer, providing them an opportunity to work, earn money or volunteer, and share their experiences with our summer kids.

“Serving over 5,300 children and providing over 250 summer jobs for youth are major accomplishments for Tenacity and are in line with the City of Boston’s goal to provide free sports, recreation, and job opportunities for its young residents,” said Ned Eames, Tenacity’s President & Founder.

**Summer Highlights**

- **5,300 Boston youth** attended one to six weeks of Tenacity’s free summer program
- **33 City of Boston parks** were used each weekday to run STRP
- Our summer staff of 250+ included 45 members and volunteers who are graduates of MSA
- **Girls Got Game** program introduced (see page 3)
- **Wellness Wednesdays** introduced— a program designed for combating childhood obesity
- **Enhanced Team Tennis**— provided an improved quality of instruction and more competition across our sites
- Theme-based reading curriculum enlightened our readers to the joys of summer reading
- Improved junior staff development with more training on Quick Start tennis and theme-based reading
Girls Got Game!

The 2011 Tenacity Summer Tennis & Reading Program hosted its first-ever Girls Got Game workshop series at the South Street courts in Jamaica Plain. This workshop series, designed for Tenacity’s female participants, featured tennis instruction and games designed to build confidence and team dynamics.

Thirty girls met once a week along with select staff for a two-hour workshop that focused on playing doubles, on the court communication and wellness activities.

The all-female environment gave Tenacity’s girls the space and comfort to excel mentally and physically on the courts. Tenacity’s female staffers took advantage of the opportunity to serve as positive role models and fostered meaningful relationships with girls of all ability levels.

Tenacity’s staff is excited about growing this initiative into a more integral part of the summer program in the years to come.

Heartfelt Thanks to Two New England Tennis Camps

For several years, Ted Hoehn and Windridge Tennis & Sports Camps have generously hosted many Tenacity Middle School Academy students in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont. In July, six Tenacity kids spent two weeks enjoying tennis instruction, swimming, and hiking, among many other fun activities geared toward building self-confidence.

And for the first time, Tamarack Tennis Camp hosted Tenacity kids at their camp in Franconia, NH. Bernie Gonzalez, Genesis Perez, and Tyshawn Santos, all Middle School Academy graduates, enjoyed three weeks in the White Mountains. The kids experienced great tennis instruction and other traditional camp activities including soccer, mountain biking, and rock wall climbing.

Tenacity Worcester Summer Tennis & Reading Program

Tenacity in Worcester enjoyed its fourth summer of full-day tennis, summer reading and vocabulary builder program at three sites across the city: Newton Square; Crompton Park; and Clark University. The program, which is free for Worcester’s youth, has tripled in size since 2008, this past summer serving 640 kids, ages 6-16.

Who’s teaching? Tenacity Worcester employs 13 high school and college tennis players and volunteers from the United Way for the six week summer session.

Two special events have sprouted from the commitment of many in Worcester County to allow us to increase our capacity to reach more kids. In July, the Worcester Tennis Club hosted its second annual tournament to support our growth, allowing our students to serve as ball kids.

And, our second annual fundraiser, held on November 9 at the Hanover Theatre, again featured the Bill and Dot Power Sportsmanship Awards given to special achievers from this past summer.

A special thanks to Charles Ribakoff of Harr Ford, and The Hanover Insurance Group for their generous support and to Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner, Worcester Parks and Recreation department, which is instrumental in the success and continued growth of our program.
The Next Chapter
Pathway to Excellence
Capacity Building Plan

This fall at Tenacity, we launched an exciting, capacity building plan that encompasses program expansion and improvements to significantly increase the impact of our Pathway to post secondary success.

- The Pathway now begins in 4th grade and extends through graduation from college or other post-secondary programs.
- Our planned program expansion will triple the number of students served during the school year and establish Tenacity programs in up to 10 Boston Public Schools.
- Quality improvements will support bolster long-term goals for our youth: 100% high school graduation rates and 75% college/post-secondary completion.
- New, indoor, neighborhood based recreational/educational facilities will provide all-season academic enrichment and recreation, deepening family, school and neighborhood impact.

New Elementary Program for 4th & 5th Graders
Serve 1,000 youth in up to 10 schools with in-school and after-school tennis clinics and weekend parent/child tennis events. This will expose youth and families to our blend of tennis, life-skills and literacy. Parent workshops will inform families of the benefits of our intensive Pathway to Excellence and teach parents concrete skills to support student success.

Middle School Academy Expansion and Enhancement
Serve 480 youth in 10 sites with our successful three-year program that includes a 21st century life skills curriculum and study skills program to boost English Language Arts learning, a more comprehensive tennis-teaching curriculum to contain chaos, and a full-time VP of Tennis/Fitness to augment and intensify our tennis instruction.

College Prep & Alumni Services Programs
Serve all MSA graduates by setting the expectation of a 100% high school graduation rate and a 75% college completion rate. These programs provide support services to enable Tenacity students, not just to graduate from high school, but to succeed in graduating from college or post-secondary programs. Our highest number of college acceptances to date was in spring 2011. Ultimately, Tenacity will help over 1,000 school-year students become productive, well-educated, successful young adults each year.

Message from the President:

It is with great appreciation that we recognize the enormous impact Larry and Beth Greenberg have had on Tenacity. Larry has just completed a six-year term as Chairman of the Board, during which time we saw the growth of Tenacity from a start-up program serving 2,500 students to now one of the most recognized tennis and literacy based youth development programs in the country.

The Greenberg’s generosity coupled with Larry’s leadership helped put Tenacity in a position to create The Next Chapter, a multi-year capacity building plan, enabling our students to achieve post secondary success.

Larry and Beth have been active in all facets of Tenacity including volunteering in our office, at fundraising events, and sharing their personal time with the kids we serve. Every October they host a CP and ASP school year kick-off BBQ at their home, complete with games, music, a cookout and fun for everyone invited.

Our new Chairman, Bill Achtmeyer, will lead Tenacity in this Next Chapter. As Chairman and Managing Partner of The Parthenon Group, which generously consults with Tenacity on a pro bono basis, Bill brings a wealth of relevant experience to the role.

Bill and his wife Alli have given generously to Tenacity and have been instrumental in the success of many fundraising events in recent years. As co-chairs, they have brought style and sophistication to our gala while maintaining an earnest focus on our mission of serving under served youth.

I am grateful to Larry, Beth, Bill and Alli, and the other Board members who all share in our commitment to ensure that urban youth succeed in school and lead productive lives.

Ned Eames
Alumni News

Tenacity College Prep graduates – leading productive lives

Aleida Brown - A Howard University senior, eager to attend law school, has held several impressive posts including clerk for the U.S. DOJ and intern for Congressman John Conyers. This former site leader in Tenacity’s STRP for several summers is also a co-founder of Shining Stars Charter School in Washington, D.C. established in August of this year.

Shermane Rodney - Graduated from Bates College in 2009 and worked at MFS in Boston before moving to London. She is currently working and saving in preparation for graduate school.

James Bongay - Graduated in 2010 from Stevens Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Business & Technology. He currently works as a Systems Integration Analyst at Accenture in New Jersey.

Yves Singletary - In his senior year at Springfield College, Yves served as president of the Student Society for Bridging Diversity (SSBD) and was awarded the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award. Now serving as an AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow in the Brockton Mayor’s office, Yves is supervising the Mayor’s Youth Council which is focusing on an anti-violence campaign.

Yamirah Legy - A senior at Mt. Ida College, she is studying in London this semester. Yamirah is the first recipient of the Ralph and Janice James Scholarship for Tenacity students.

Nick Nazare - A former AmeriCorps Member with Tenacity, returned to art school and secured an internship at the Weekly Dig in Boston. He will have one illustration published each week. Check it out at http://洛克瑞.com/s/140700020.

College Prep News

Middle School Academy graduates – succeeding like never before in high school

Tutu Ikpebor (12th grade) received the Sun Life Financial Rising Star Award, one of three given in Massachusetts, which includes a $5K college scholarship (see photo on left).

Sonny Huang (9th grade), Lissette Deleon (12th grade) and Reggie Louissant (12th grade) received youth memberships to Longwood Cricket Club as part of the Arthur Ashe Summer Scholars Program.

Luar Barros (12th grade) is serving on the Boston Mayor’s Youth Council this year.

Jasmine Ross (10th grade) completed her first summer in Harvard’s Crimson Scholars Program.

Jose Pequeno (9th grade) is launching a mentoring program at his local Boys & Girls Club.

Ada Bonilla and Jennifer Zavala (12th grade) traveled to the Dominican Republic through the Dream Project. Ada was selected to speak with Governor Deval Patrick when he visited Fenway high in October 2011.

Ira Shurtle (12th grade) traveled to a rural community in Nicaragua through Summer Search, a Tenacity partner program, and taught local youth about environmental issues.

Gabriel “Chin” Fan (12th grade) performed at the State House on Columbus Day with his dance troupe Bauccoll. He also is a YouTube.com sensation with the music video, “Water” inspired by his hat days at Tenacity’s summer program.

Sixteen AmeriCorps Members joined Tenacity in September for a year of service working in our school year programs. This year’s crew comes equipped with a variety of backgrounds and talents and includes a former police officer from England and a former NCAA Division I volleyball player.

Two AmeriCorps Members are working with our CP students while the remainder are engaged throughout the city at our five MSA sites. Members are teamed with our staff to teach literacy, coach tennis, and organize field trips and community service projects.

“Tell’s been great getting to know the kids better each week, both inside and outside of the classroom,” said first-year AmeriCorps Member Emily Stedum, who recently took students from the McCormack School on a field trip to the corn maze at Connors Farm in Danvers.

The entire AmeriCorps team is excited about mentoring and teaching Tenacity’s youth!
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When you make a gift to Tenacity, you provide an opportunity for hundreds of under-served city youth to realize the benefit of staying in school. From the President, staff, and Board of Directors, we thank you for continuing to support Tenacity.
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If there are unintentional errors, we apologize. Please call us with corrections at 617-566-0900 x 26.
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Tenacity Introduces Two New Leaders

We are excited to introduce two new leaders at Tenacity, critical to the success of our capacity building plans.

**Vice President of Advancement, Karen Solomon**, oversees Tenacity’s comprehensive fundraising program, working closely with the President and Founder, Ned Eames, and the Board of Directors. She has held senior positions in Rhode Island at Community Prep School, The RI Philharmonic and Music School, and The Highlander Charter School. “This feels like a true homecoming to me,” said Karen. “I am a staunch believer that education is the key that unlocks the door to a successful future, and I’ve spent most of my development career working with founder-led, urban middle schools,” she continued.

Karen has also served as Campaign Director for The Boston Conservatory where she played a pivotal role in the successful completion of their recent capital campaign. She received her undergraduate degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and an MBA from Cornell University.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to now work at Tenacity where education, tennis instruction and mentoring combine to produce terrific outcomes,” she shared.

Our first-ever **Vice President of Tennis/Fitness & Summer Programs, Scott Stanior**, will lead our year-round tennis programs with improved quality of instruction and more competitive opportunities for our kids while ensuring our academic curriculum is at the forefront of our programming.

Scott comes with a resume of tennis prowess and business experience. A former nationally ranked NE junior and Captain of the Yale tennis team, he has 25 years corporate experience at Pepsi-Cola, Dr. Pepper/S7UP, American Express, and Snapple. “It’s a thrill for me to be part of Tenacity’s team and build upon our mission of serving Boston’s youth,” expressed Scott. “I came to Tenacity because I believe Tennis has the power to have a transformative effect on the lives of kids; engineering value systems and life lessons so important to success in life.”

Much of Scott’s tennis professional background was spent over the past 10 years working with the USTA on developing campaigns aimed at broadening the reach of tennis through advertising and grassroots development programs. Most recently, he worked with USTA Community Tennis in southern CT launching Park Tennis USA which is dedicated to improving the quality of public tennis programs for kids.

“As VP of Tennis, my goal is to ensure that Tenacity remains on the cutting edge of tennis teaching and curriculum approaches in a way that allows our staff to instill these values so crucial to their lives now and in the future,” continued Scott.

According to Ned Eames, “Scott’s experience and positive approach are tremendous assets to Tenacity.”
Tenacity
TENACITY
game. set. LIFE.

38 Everett Street
Boston, MA 02134

617-562-0900
www.tenacity.org

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Boston Pro Tennis League Supports Tenacity

The Boston Pro Tennis League enjoyed its second season this past summer with a roster of 32 professional players, more than 10 with former ATP world rankings and several others having enjoyed successful Division I college careers. Their matches were played at area tennis clubs throughout the summer. Thanks to the partnership between BPTL and Tenacity, our kids had the opportunity to attend the matches, and at each match, one of our students was selected to speak to the attendees about life at Tenacity.

The season finale was played at Longwood Cricket Club on August 18 where BPTL presented Tenacity with a $1,500 donation in support of our efforts with at-risk youth.

Thank you Boston Pro Tennis League!

Stephanie Gendron, Dir. of College Prep & Alumni Programs, Tutu Ekpebor and Catherine Ashley, College Prep students and BPTL players at LCC.

Coming soon-
The Annual Holiday Appeal
Please consider Tenacity in your year-end giving.