DEAR FRIENDS OF ACCESS YOUTH ACADEMY,

Fourteen years ago, a small group of San Diegans came together to create an innovative program. It was designed to help underserved youth be the first in their families to graduate from college and become future leaders. Building on our four program pillars – individual academic achievement, health and wellness, community service, and leadership skills – we added the sport of squash to provide the catalyst and the opportunity to develop discipline, sportsmanship, and teamwork, and to open new doors of possibility.

As the pages in this Annual Report show, we have made great progress, and have helped many youth and their families realize their dreams. The UCSD Preuss School has been a superb partner throughout our exciting journey.

During this year, Access realized another dream – to secure the funding to design and build a state-of-the-art-education and squash facility in Southeast San Diego. With the critical financing achieved in February, we broke ground in May, and our site on Euclid Avenue is proceeding towards its scheduled opening in June 2021. With the new multi-classroom, eight court facility, we will be able to serve many more youth and families through partnerships with multiple schools, instead of just one. This major achievement would not have been possible without the generous public/private support of the City of San Diego, and numerous donations from individuals, families, and foundations.

As with everyone, our world was turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemics. In just a few weeks, our talented staff transformed our in-person academic and athletic programs into a totally virtual learning environment.

On behalf of our board of directors and the remarkable youth we serve, we thank you for your support of Access Youth Academy. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress to build a unique facility that will become a community resource for the entire region, and a magnet for squash playing visitors from around the world.

With gratitude,

Blair L. Sadle
Board Chair

Renato Paiva
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Blair L. Sadle - Board Chair - Past President, Rady Children’s Hospital
Greg Scherman - Vice Chair – Co-founder, The Scherman Energy Group
David Armstrong - Leader, International Boys' Schools Coalition
Fernanda Coelho - Director, Coelho Consulting
Hugh Davies - Director Emeritus, Museum of Contemporary Art SD
Thuy Dang - Access Student Representative
Kim Puloma Kamdar - Partner, Domain Associates
Henry Manice - Co-founder, Mighty Squirrel
Jack McGrory - CEO, La Jolla MO Management, LLC
Robert Merritt - Retired, Previous Military Liaison to Congress
Kevin Munkholm - Principal and Director, Marsh & McLennan Agency
Emily Mortimer - Sales & Business Development, Cord Blood Register
Susan L. Taylor - Director of External Affairs, Scripps Health
Zachary Smith - Senior Director of Development, Rady School of Management
Josh Swigart - Partner, Swigart Law Group
Julie Visser - Head of Corporate Executive Coaching, The Toft Group
Mary Walshok - Dean, UCSD Extension

STAFF

Renato Paiva - Executive Director
Danielle Prince - Operations Director
Cindy Sweeney - Development Associate
Shelby Coopwood - Academic Coordinator
Dave Norton - Squash Coach
OUR VISION

We believe every youth deserves equal access to educational and socio-economic opportunities for growth and advancement.

OUR MISSION

Access Youth Academy was created in 2006 to transform the lives of underserved youth by preparing them to lead successful, independent lives of leadership and public service through academic mentorship, health and wellness, community service, and leadership training using the sport of squash as a catalyst.

OUR PROGRAM

Access Youth Academy is a 12-year commitment that begins in 7th grade and provides students with support and guidance that continues into their early careers. Access programming is designed to nurture early work habits, provide social connections with peers and adults, support academics, and encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Access Youth Academy assists students with academics, college applications, post-acceptance support, and transition to the workforce.
Access programs and all related activities are 100% free for the participating youth. The ripple effect of achieving a debt-free college education is profound, and the generational impact on future health and the well-being of these students in low-income neighborhoods will bring about long-term change and hope of a brighter future.

The dedication required to excel at both scholarship and sportsmanship creates a culture of character and determination – one that yields powerful results. Access Youth Academy shapes champions and leaders with skills that fuel students through high-school graduation, on to top universities, and well beyond into their careers.

Students who participate in Access Youth Academy programming have an average GPA of 3.97 compared to the national average 2.5GPA.

Access changed my life. It helped me become a better student, a better athlete, and a better person.”  

~ Hanna

Hanna was born in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. When she was very young, her family moved to the United States seeking better opportunities. One of the most impactful opportunities afforded Hanna was joining Access Youth Academy. Hanna quickly became a top tier student. She not only showed excellence in her own academic performance but also enjoyed assisting others with their work. Today, Hanna is an accomplished athlete. She attended the National Urban Team Squash Championships, played as number 1 in her team section, and represented Access Youth Academy as team Captain. She remained undefeated during the tournament. Hanna won 6 consecutive national championships, graduated high school with honors, and was accepted to 19 colleges. She has now graduated from Dartmouth College, is working at Stanford, and has applied for Medical School.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

ORGANIZATIONS WE VOLUNTEERED AT:

FEEDING SAN DIEGO
HUNGER PROJECT
SURFRIDER FOUNDATION
SD RIVER PARKS
COLLEGE GARDEN
I LOVE A CLEAN SD

Hours of volunteer activities per youth: 17 hours/year
Number of volunteers and mentors who gave time this year: 37
Summer Learning Opportunities

Three Access students were chosen to attend academic and pre-college summer camp programs associated with leading universities. Anthony attended a 5-week academic summer camp at the Taft School. Abigail attended a 3-week immersion program at the University of Chicago. Emely attended a 2-week pre-college program at Harvard.

SEA Citizenship Tour

Three of our juniors – Lexa, Angel and Maria – were chosen to attend the Squash and Education Alliance (SEA) annual Citizenship Tour!

The Citizenship Tour first launched in 2014 as a way to empower students from SEA’s national network to become civically active in their home communities.

During the 2019 tour, students met with notable public figures, such as Admiral James Stavridis and Senator Richard Blumenthal. The group also visited New York City Hall, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, the U.S. Capitol, and the White House.

Academic Summer Camp

Summer camp this year focused on environmental awareness, looking at personal consumption habits and ways we can reduce our impact on the planet. Access youth enjoyed a presentation from San Diego Coast Keeper, learned about pollution runoff in our waterways, and calculated our personal consumption. Access youth also visited the Water Conservation Garden, the Americas Museum, spent a day at Balboa Park, and visited the Birch Aquarium.

East Coast College Tour

At the end of July, four Access seniors took a trip to the east coast, to visit nine colleges. They flew into Boston and visited Harvard and MIT, then continued on to Tufts, Trinity, Wesleyan and Yale before heading to New York City. In NY they toured NYU, Fordham, and Columbia. The seniors left the trip excited to be on the path to college!
“I am so thankful for Access. You have helped me grow my dreams since 8th grade, and now I am so excited to go to college. I don’t know where I would be without you.”

“Access pushed me to be a better student and a better person.”

“Access has provided me with such important support, whether it’s helping with academics or just having someone to talk to when I need it.”

“I can’t express how much I appreciate Access and the impact you have had on my life.”

“Through Access I have been able to meet so many amazing people and go places I never thought I’d be able to go. It’s a great program and I regret nothing about joining it.”

“Access has allowed me to build connections & relationships that will last a lifetime.”

“I value my Access family so much!”

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“I value my Access family so much!”
Lyhn was voted hardest working at Trinity College - "With her inquisitive squash persona, Lyhn is always exploring new ways to improve and then putting the feedback she receives into action by spending hours on the court. She is an inspiration to us all."

Tournament statistics:
16 played in a Junior Silver in October
21 played in Junior Bronze in November
So-Cal high school league - 2nd place

Djulia was named Berkeley women’s squash team captain as a freshman

Thousands of junior squash players of all levels across the country compete and enjoy squash as a regular part of their lives.

Through their quest to excel at the sport of squash, students learn discipline, teamwork, resilience, how to win, and how to lose with grace and renewed determination. Participation in squash, combined with our other key program components and the necessary resources, clears the way for Access youth to become self-reliant and successful contributing members of society.

Tournament statistics:
Djulia was named Berkeley women’s squash team captain as a freshman

Lyhn was voted hardest working at Trinity College - "With her inquisitive squash persona, Lyhn is always exploring new ways to improve and then putting the feedback she receives into action by spending hours on the court. She is an inspiration to us all."
January 24, 2020 at Paradise Point

Over 300 Access Youth Academy friends & supporters gathered together to enjoy a fun-filled mission-focused evening.

In keeping with tradition, the keynote speech was delivered by a recent Access graduate.

This year we were graced with the exceptional and accomplished Tiffany Fung who spoke about how her involvement with Access changed the trajectory of her life and allowed her to reach previously unimaginable heights.
A heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers!

Nelson Goodman  Sean Kilpatrick
Carly Schnoebelen  Seyi Ajirotutu
Peter Frame  Kareem Smith
Bisrate Debele  Jessica Wayman
Yuyni Zhang  Bob Schultze
Davit Martirosyan  Sofia Wadler
Justin Hover  Ray Gallardo
Larissa Dinh  Chris Holloway
Molly Corbin  Frank Russo
Ana Rodriguez  Justin Tipp
Scott Hardy  Michael Rodrigues
Tina Zubrod  Eric Peterson
Greg Scherman  Naveed Ahmed
Cheyenne Bartram  Chad Keaty
Joe Shetler  Joe Summers
Torin Phillips  Jonathan Jaboro
Allison Murray  Janice Jaboro
Ben Temple  Tristin Abbod
Kate Chang

OUR PARTNERS
Through a highly diversified donor base made up of deeply committed individuals, national and local foundations, corporations, and government agencies, Access Youth Academy is able to ensure the continued sustainability and future expansion of our programming.

91% of the class of 2020’s financial need was covered through debt-free grants and scholarships.

### OVERVIEW

- **Revenue**: $1,384,563
- **Expenses**: $772,000
- **Total Net**: $662,563

### GIVING LEVELS

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### EXPENSE CATEGORIES

(Total $772,179)

- **Program**: $331,100 (43%)
- **Fundraising**: $265,226 (34%)
- **Management**: $175,674 (23%)
Access Youth Academy is building a new academic and athletic community center at 704 Euclid Ave. in southeastern San Diego.

This new location will allow Access to reach hundreds more at-risk youth, serve more first-generation college students, and provide community classrooms to be used for the provision of educational, workforce preparedness, and informational services for southeast San Diego adults and transition-age youth.
Access Program Expansion - Bringing Success to Scale
Access Youth Academy students are grateful for your kind and generous support!