

Tennis Rocks prepared to close its 5th year of summer camp for inner city youth in Wilmington.

Given the impact that COVID-19 has had on youth in Delaware, especially in areas of high poverty, this 7-week summer camp is needed more than ever.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilmington, Delaware – July 15, 2021 - The Tennis Rocks Tutoring and Music Association (aka Tennis Rocks), a division of the Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation, a 501c3 non-profit organization, is excited to announce its fifth consecutive year of providing summer camp for inner city Wilmington children and youth. The goal of the summer program is simple: to provide opportunities for under-served, at-risk youth and families in Wilmington. Specifically, the camp allows participants to build their academic, social, and physical strength. Thanks to the generosity of grants and donations, the Tennis Rocks program is free to community families.

The Tennis Rocks summer camp is for children ages 8 and older. This year's program began June 21 and runs daily (Monday through Thursday) through August 5. The program is held locally using the community tennis courts in Haynes Park. While playing tennis, youth learn not only the mechanics of tennis, but also sportsmanship, team building, cooperation, strategy, and interpersonal skills; skills that are applicable both on and off the court.

Although a large part of this program focuses on tennis, there is also a component that includes academic enrichment along with daily meals. Many of these students have suffered a setback in learning due to school closures and remote learning driven by COVID-19. The Academic Enrichment program supplements and reinforces content that was missed during the school year to prevent them from falling farther behind.

Harry Shur, known as "Mr. Harry" or "Coach Harry," started this program because he saw a need in the community. "Our Tennis Rocks program is needed now more than ever to continue working with our youth and families who are just getting over the Covid-19 Pandemic. We provide year-round programs that give them confidence and life skills to be successful at home, at school, and in the community. We want them to reach their full potential to become great young adults in our community."

Harry has embedded Tennis Rocks into Wilmington's 19802 neighborhood and feels strongly about the need to provide a safe space for neighborhood children. Many of the Tennis Rocks volunteers, tutors, and coaches are returning students of Harry's who have decided to pay it forward in an effort to strengthen the community.

His passion for helping the community stems from his career in the in State of Delaware Division of Youth and Rehabilitative Services. He retired from a 25-year career as a Family Crisis Therapist and understands the importance of consistency, stability, and opportunities for youth.

The Tennis Rocks program has had a positive impact on the lives of children and youth in the community for many years. This year's camp is a mix of new and returning campers, some of which have been working with Coach Harry for almost a decade! Tennis Rocks is excited about this year's summer program and is thrilled to share this milestone with the community.

ABOUT TENNIS ROCKS

The Tennis Rocks Tutoring and Music Association is a division of Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation, a 501c3 non-profit organization. Tennis Rocks provides year-round tennis, tutoring, and music activities for children and youth from first grade through college. Tennis Rocks is a member of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) as a Community Tennis Association (CTA) and National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL).

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