

Beyond the Court

USPTA Donates \$5,000 to ThanksUSA Scholarship Fund

In an effort to continue its support of the Tennis Thanks The Troops campaign, USPTA donated \$5,000 in January to ThanksUSA's scholarship fund. Since partnering with ThanksUSA in 2013, USPTA has donated \$11,000 to the organization, and its divisions and members have donated more than \$65,000 to the general scholarship fund in the last three years.

"The USPTA's contribution is a terrific way to start off 2016. Their generous action reinforces the organization's continuing support for ThanksUSA by its club pros, special tournaments and fundraisers throughout the tennis season and beyond," said ThanksUSA CEO and chair Bob Okun. "It also challenges the athletes and their fans to increase the momentum during the rest of the year to create new ways for all USPTA members and their families to say thank you to our military families. Their contributions help ensure that the children and spouses of our service members reach their career potential through the gift of education."

ThanksUSA provides need-based, post-secondary scholarships to the children and spouses of active-duty personnel across all the Armed Forces, the National Guard and Reserves, as well as to families of the fallen and



USPTA Pro Bunny Bruning and Wakonda Tennis Club celebrated our freedom with a Fourth of July event to support military families.

wounded. USPTA and ThanksUSA teamed up to encourage USPTA Professionals to fund scholarships for the families of military men and women since 2013.

The nationwide campaign, which launched in 2012, has the support of men's doubles champions and No. 1-ranked doubles team Bob and Mike Bryan and the WTA Tour's previ-

ously No. 1-ranked doubles player and US Open Doubles Champion Lisa Raymond as spokespersons.

Over the past year, 12 USPTA divisions and several individual members increased their support from 2014 by holding 18 events across the country and submitting donations to raise \$29,962, the highest amount in the three years USPTA has partnered with



USPTA Pros at the USPTA Southern U30 Conference showed their support for ThanksUSA.



USPTA Pro Frank Swope and Ballensles Country Club hosted an event on Veteran's Day. A round-robin tournament and member donations resulted in a generous contribution to support ThanksUSA scholarships.

the charitable organization. In 2014, five divisions held 10 events and raised \$22,086, and in 2013 total donations amounted to \$13,327.

Since the partnership began in 2013, USPTA has 15 \$3,000 scholarships in its name. Other clubs and associations have a combined total of 14 named \$3,000 scholarships thanks to the fundraising efforts of USPTA members at Berkeley Hills Country Club, San Diego Tennis Association, JTCC-College Park Tennis Club and the Chartwell Tennis Classic.

USPTA members can help by donating a portion of their lessons or clinic fees taught during the year, especially on military holidays such as Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. TTTT events can also combine with existing USPTA programs such as Lessons for Life™. USPTA Professionals can provide the opportunity for their students and club members to donate \$5 for the cause or they can run a simple round robin, tournament or other event with all or a portion of the proceeds being donated to ThanksUSA.

As an extra incentive to support the ThanksUSA cause, the club or individual raising the most money for the ThanksUSA charity will receive two tickets to the US Open and the opportunity to send their pro and a guest to New York, including airlines and hotel. ☞

For more information or to get involved with ThanksUSA and the Tennis Thanks the Troops campaign, visit www.thanksusa.org.



USPTA Pro Tanda Bianco and Port Royal Racquet Club hosted a Fast Action Drill Clinic followed by a Doubles Exhibition featuring top Hilton Head Island tennis professionals to raise funds for Tennis Thanks the Troops.



Above: USPTA Pro Mani Barajas-Alexander and TopNotch Tennis teamed up with USTA Mid-Atlantic to host an entry-level tennis tournament at Tuckahoe Recreation Club in McLean, Va., with entry fees donated to TTTT. Above, right: ThanksUSA scholar Jinah Kim and her family joined TTTT at the CopperWynd Pro Challenge on Veteran's Appreciation Day, which is under the direction of USPTA Pro Scott McCulloch, Cliff Drysdale Tennis. Right: Karla Orozco and stepfather Reuben are recognized by members of the San Diego District Tennis Association's Military Outreach Committee for her educational scholarship made possible through funds raised during the District's annual Tennis Fest. Photo includes members of SD-DTA Military Outreach Committee, including USPTA Pros Steve Kappes, Josh Jorgensen and Geoff Griffin.

