



Washington Education & Squash Academy Newsletter



Issue 12 | January 2021 | 2020 Financials

Welcome

As we all know, this has been an especially challenging year. From our nation's ongoing battle with racism to a global pandemic, many of us are feeling overwhelmed and exhausted as a result of the emotional, psychological, and financial turmoil and hardship from such traumatic events. While these events and realities have affected WESA as well, we feel incredibly lucky to have had a fun and fulfilling year full of learning, building memories, and somehow, despite it all, squash. Such a year was possible because of the tenacity of our students, the flexibility of our families, the support of our community, the belief of our Board, and the time and effort of our staff and volunteers. Thank you to each of you for making this year full of bright moments, despite the challenges! We have captured some of our favorite parts of the year in the pages ahead.

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Friends of WESA 2020 – *Thank you to all of our donors for your continued support!*

Our 2020 Highlights

In the stressful times we've been living through, it is important to recognize and hold onto the silver linings, those bits of joy and connection that have come about as a result of this tragic pandemic. We wanted to share with you a few of the highlights from this year:

The 2020 Intercontinental Knockabout

Recognizing that it was not safe for us to hold our annual Knockabout in its traditional form this year--all gathering together at the Seattle Athletic Club for squash, food, drink, conversation, and celebration, we made other plans. We gathered virtually, allowing for a first ever opportunity for our community from across the globe to come together--from Colombia to New England and the Pacific Northwest to India! We loved seeing all of your faces!

WESA Film Writing Workshop with LA Filmmakers

This summer WESA students were joined by LA Filmmakers Josh Bachove, Jeanine Frost, David Mahmoudieh, and Erin Wesley to learn the basics of script writing. Students worked in (virtual) small groups with our guests to craft and write a short script. We hope to turn these scripts into short films during Summer @ WESA!

Nicol David, World No. 1, joins WESA Board of Directors

We were thrilled to meet Nicol last year when she came to Seattle, and were overjoyed that our students had the opportunity to play with her on court. A year later, after working with Nicol remotely while she prepares to launch the Nicol David Foundation, we are very excited to now have the honor to [call her one of our own!](#)

Building Even Stronger Relationships

Strong relationships have always been part of the foundation of WESA—that is why we work with our students for 10 years. And we believe that it is vital to prioritize mental health and well-being, especially during this time of COVID-19. In that vein, we have added



Playing a game, masquerading as vegetables, during Friday Funday.

practices this year that are specifically focused on having fun and spending time with one another. Despite the distance, we have gotten to know each other even better this year as we join together from our living rooms around the city, play games, and talk to one another.

Taking Squash Outdoors into the Elements

After many months off the court, we discovered a pair of handball courts at a local park. While we miss the fourth wall, the airy nature of the courts is perfect for drills for the time being. We are extremely grateful to be on court, hitting together once again! Masks on, and safety first.

Upcoming Events

We hope to see all of you on court for the **2021 Knockabout** this **October**. However, even more badly than that, we want to do our part to help keep you safe. Thus, we will be holding the second annual *Knockabout – Trivia Edition* competition this year (and will enthusiastically add an in-person, on court component as soon as it is safe to do so).

What does this mean for you?

- ✓ Start to freshen up on your **trivia knowledge**.
- ✓ Begin putting together your ideal **trivia squad** (Which of your friends knows the most about geography? Maybe it's time to start getting to know that colleague who is an expert forager. Sign your mom up now so that she's not booked.)
- ✓ Craft your **fundraising team**—if trivia isn't their thing, perhaps winning the Sustainers' Cup is!
- ✓ Let [Ross Elkin](#) know if you're interested in joining.

We'll be in touch as the day approaches!

In partnership with



2020 Financials

In February 2020 we were planning a spring trip to Boston with our students to compete in a Junior tournament, visit a local SEA program, and tour a variety of colleges and historic sites. When March arrived, those plans were quickly canceled and the 2020 landscape at WESA, like everywhere, looked very different. Rather than hopping on a plane to meet other squash and education students and compete against their peers, WESA students were confined to their homes, unable to spend time with friends and teammates. As school, travel, and business all began to come to a halt due to the public health emergency, the economy began to slow as well.

WESA is a nonprofit and public charity and as such we rely on the generosity of our supporters. As we prepared for our first year with a single fundraising event, the Knockabout, COVID-19 loomed large and we worried about the impact the economic fallout might have on our ability to serve our students.

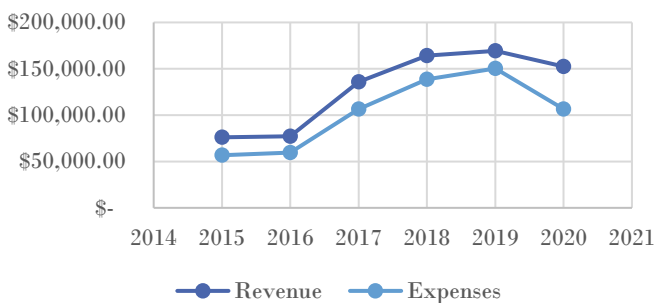
As we close the books for 2020, we cannot express our gratitude to all of our supporters enough. Each gift from you, from \$5 to \$5,000 and beyond allowed us to provide consistent academic support and physical fitness opportunities for our students despite everything this year. While our annual revenue decreased for the first time this year since WESA's inception, it exceeded our emergency budget and,

with decreased expenses and immense support from our community, we enter 2021 in a strong financial position, looking forward to the coming year full of hope and excitement. While we know there will be unforeseen challenges ahead as we continue to navigate the new normal, we feel your support and continue onward with our spirits high.

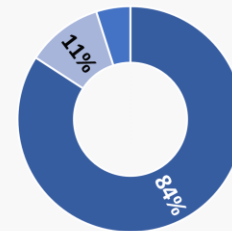
All Eyes on Programming

As we say every year, our focus is on our students and the programming we offer to them. Each year we work to increase the portion of our budget that is used for direct programming. We are proud to have made that happen once again this year. For those data folks, like myself, who may be looking at the charts below and wondering why our relative administrative expenditures more than doubled between 2019 and 2020, that is due to the (very exciting!) addition of a WESA office. We look forward to the programmatic opportunities and growth in the year ahead!

Annual Revenue & Expenditures

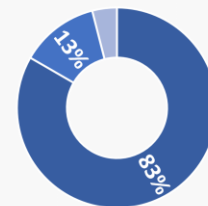


FY 2020 Total Expenses



■ Administrative ■ Fundraising ■ Program

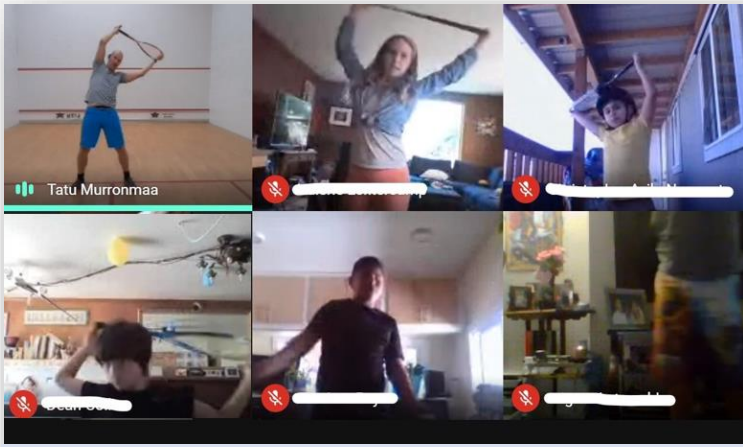
FY 2019 Total Expenses



■ Administrative ■ Fundraising ■ Program

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Students warm up with Mr. Tatu, volunteer and coach extraordinaire!

Thank you, Lauren!

This winter we would like to recognize Lauren Parker, a local high school student, for her commitment in time and energy to WESA. Lauren began tutoring with WESA in 2019. When WESA switched to virtual programming, Lauren adapted her role and has been leading bi-weekly fitness sessions with our elementary school students. She always has exciting new fitness games for our scholars so that staying healthy and fit stays fun! Thank you, Lauren!

Volunteer at WESA



Academic Tutoring (Virtual)

Mon + Thurs: 4:30-5:30 PM

Tues + Wed: 4-5 PM



Fitness Coaching (Virtual)

Mon + Thurs: 4-5 PM

Tues: 4:30-5:30 PM

Wed: 3-4 PM

wesacademy.org/volunteer



Squash Volunteering (In Person)

Tues + Thurs: 4:30-5:30 PM

2:1

Squash Coaching (In Person)

Flexible hours around your and your students' schedules.

We're Hiring!

WESA is seeking a highly qualified Program Director. The ideal candidate must play squash and have ample experience working with youth. Additionally, this individual must demonstrate a strong commitment to and belief in the importance of equity and justice. At WESA, we believe that representation matters and we also recognize that nonprofits serving BIPOC communities are disproportionately led by white people. The majority of our students are BIPOC individuals, with a large number of our students being native Spanish speakers. Because we believe that voices from within these communities should be centered in the work we do, we strongly encourage applications from members of communities that are reflective of our student body.

Donor Spotlight – Doug Lind

Professor, University of Washington

When asked why he chooses to give to WESA, Professor Lind says,

“Although I'd heard about WESA before, I got to know much more about it through meeting some WESA students at the Seattle Open exactly a year ago. Hearing from them how the combination of academics and squash has had such a huge impact on their lives really impressed me. I was also impressed by their squash abilities, since I went down to defeat by a WESA student in a hard fought but very enjoyable match!

I chatted about this experience with my Seattle Squash League teammates on the U Double Dots. We thought maybe our team could offer a bit of encouragement and support to WESA students, since they are a part of our squash community. Kate Frost had suggested getting shirts or hoodies for the graduating class last June to celebrate, but alas COVID got in the way.

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Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments at info@WESAcademy.org. We love hearing from you!



Washington Education & Squash Academy



@W_E_S_A



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Friends of WESA 2020

President's Circle (\$5000+)

Anonymous

The Elkin Family

Naveen Garg & Anne-Marie Canis

The Henderson Foundation

Jack Hunden

Advocate's Circle (\$2000+)

Tony & Robin Armour

Karim Ders

#HalfMyDAF

Mark Leonard

Bill Loughrin

Macquarie Group Ltd.

Vandana Nandan

Dar Khalighi

Sanjay Ravi

Supporter's Circle (\$1000+)

Albert Brown

Alan Cantlin

Maureen & Richard Cantlin

Martha & Rainer Frost

Marta Johnson & Johann Rocholl

Bruce Johnson

Johnson & Johnson

The Lilac Foundation

Douglas Lind

Neal Raval

Cathy Siegismund

Anna Swanson

Sherif Sweha

Sustainer's Circle (monthly)

Rebecca Leong



Brothers, Bryan and Brandon, sport their new WESA sweatshirts.

Donor Spotlight continued from pg 4

Under our drastically changed and isolating times today, providing all WESA students with a special WESA hoodie might serve a different and more important purpose: students wearing the same gear can feel a real bond with each other, and part of something bigger. With some help from These Tuppeny from Seattle Squash, and input from the students, we designed and ordered the hoodies, each with the student's own name on the back. Luckily, they arrived just before Christmas, and so also made for a perhaps unexpected present as well!

Like all Seattle squash players, our team has felt bereft of the sport we enjoy and value so much. But maybe small acts like this can spark a little light in dark times, still support our squash community despite the lack of play, and express our hope for better days ahead.”

Thank you, Doug, for your continued support of our scholars, on and off the court!



Doug and Jaylin at the 2020 Seattle Open.