KNT 40/15 Celebration





KNT Tennis TEXAS

KNT - Newsletter#1



40/15

In tennis, 40-15 means you're one point from a game. For us, it means something better: we're not done playing. In 2027, Kids N' Tennis, Inc. marks 40 years of serving young people at Irving Park, and the Portland Tennis Center and 15 years of hosting our annual fundraiser, the Juneteenth Tennis Tournament.

This year to honor both, KNT's theme will be "40/15," recognizing these two meaningful milestones and the many lives, lessons, and legacies they represent. Today, we celebrate 40 years of steady service, countless rallies, and thousands of young lives changed by the simple power of a racquet and by a cadre of coaches who care deeply about each child's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual development.

Celebrating 40/15: Forty years of Kids N' Tennis, Fifteen Years of Juneteenth

Forty years is an achievement we share with every player, parent, coach, volunteer, donor, and community partner who has helped make Kids N' Tennis possible. You can help us mark this milestone anniversary in several meaningful ways:

Juneteenth Tennis Tournament — June 18–20, 2027

Our largest annual fundraiser, supporting free summer camp and year-round youth tennis opportunities.

40th Anniversary Celebration at Irving Park — June 14–18, 2027

Join us as we celebrate four decades of tennis, mentorship, community, and youth development. Give to the Scholarship Fund — **In the Spirit of 40/15**

Your gift helps remove financial barriers and keeps tennis accessible for young players:

o $40 covers a junior racquet
o $150 covers a week of camp
o $400 covers a season of indoor lessons
o $1,500 sponsors a Junior Team Tennis player for one year
o $4,000 honors 40 years by sponsoring all Kids N' Tennis afterschool tennis sites — two elementary schools and two middle schools

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Community Tennis Association News

For four decades, Kids N' Tennis, Inc. has stood as a cornerstone of community life at Irving Park, the St. Johns Racquet Center and the Portland Tennis Center. What began as a small neighborhood effort to help children stay physically active while learning a new sport has grown into a year-round **Commuinty Tennis Association** offering free tennis instruction, mentorship, employment opportunities, competitive play, and a safe place for kids to build confidence, develop friendships, and thrive both on and off the court.

Today, we celebrate 40 years of steady service, countless rallies, and thousands of young lives changed by the simple power of a racquet—and by a cadre of coaches who care deeply about each child's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual development. We invite you to join us for a year-long celebration in 2026–27 as we commemorate 40 years of tennis and 15 years of hosting our annual Juneteenth Tennis Tournament.

This year's KNT theme will be **"40/15,"** recognizing these two meaningful milestones and the many lives, lessons, and legacies they represent.

kids n tennis

Irving Park Tennis Gangsters





Kids N' Tennis began with a handful of volunteers, donated courts, and an energetic belief that every child should have access to quality coaching, regardless of ability to pay. **Over the years, the program has expanded both its offerings and its outreach — adding after-school sessions, holiday clinics, and full-summer camps at Irving Park. Afterschool sessions** provide children with a constructive routine that combines homework time, coached instruction, fitness, games, and lessons in teamwork and sportsmanship. **Holiday camps** give families flexible opportunities for tennis and recreation during school breaks. **Weekend programming at the Portland Tennis Center** allows players to continue developing throughout the year, from beginners learning their first strokes to advanced players preparing for high school competition and tournaments.

Eight weeks of summer camp bring together technical instruction, competition, fitness, and the friendships that often become a child's most lasting memories. And through USTA/PNW Junior Team Tennis, young athletes have gained something that cannot be learned from drills alone: the experience of competing as a team, representing their community, and learning how to handle both victory and adversity.

We're especially grateful to our partners and supporters, including **Portland Parks & Recreation, Irvington Club Tennis Foundation, the Portland Tennis Center, Portland Public Schools, the USTA Foundation, USTA Pacific Northwest,** and the many local businesses whose contributions help keep our programs strong, accessible, and our tennis courts filled with energetic, enthusiastic children.



Pictured: **Tab Waterman, Al Clay, Henry Bryant, John Hall, Charle Irish-Borrego, Ted Salter, Fred Boggins, Jamie.**

KIDS' DAY

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Programs That Form the Backbone of Our Work

Kids N' Tennis (KNT) delivers year-round tennis programs that build skills, confidence, and character — on and off the court. From afterschool and camps to weekend classes and team tennis play, every program is designed to meet kids where they are and help them grow.

AFTERSCHOOL TENNIS

Structured, skill-building sessions at Portland Public Schools and community centers. KNT's Afterschool Curriculum consists of homework time, coached drills, and games that teach teamwork and sportsmanship.

Multiple PPs & Community Sites | Sep – Jun | K – 8th Grade



HOLIDAY CAMPS

Short winter and spring break sessions offering lessons, fitness work, and fun, with flexible scheduling for working families.

Portland Tennis Center | Dec & Apr |



SUMMER CAMP AT IRVING PARK

Eight weeks of free programming blending technical coaching, competitive play, and social activities. This is where most of our players first fall in love with the game.

Ivy's Park Tennis Courts | Jun – Aug | Ages 6 – 18



WEEKEND PROGRAMS AT THE PORTLAND TENNIS CENTER

Beginner through advanced Saturday classes that keep kids developing year-round and prepare them for high school and tournament play.

Portland Tennis Center | Year-Round | Ages 6 – 18



USTA/PNW JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS

Team play gives older players real match experience and a chance to represent Irving Park and Kids N' Tennis regionally — highlighted this year by a first-place finish at the 14 & Under Sectionals and a strong showing from our 18 & Under team.

Regional Competitions | Spring – Summer | Ages 12 – 18



MORE THAN TENNIS. BUILDING LIFE SKILLS.

- Mentorship & Leadership
- Confidence & Resilience
- Teamwork & Community
- Academic Support

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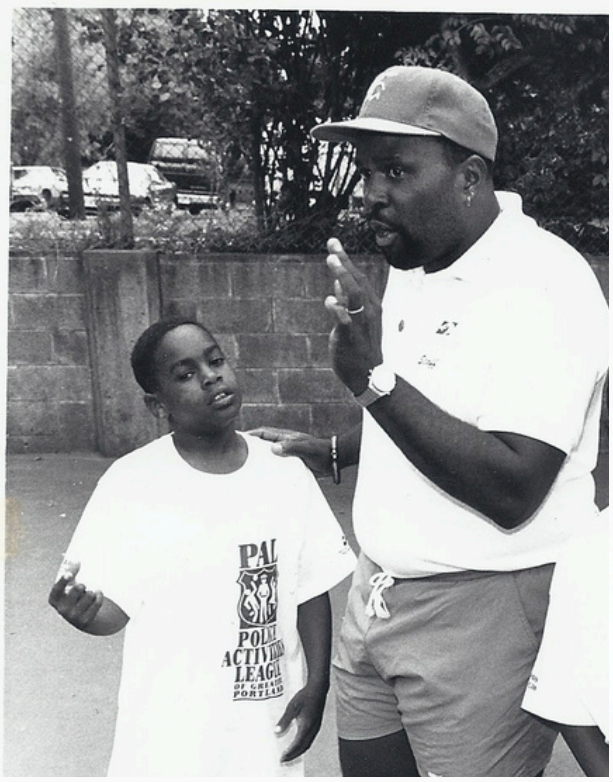
Andre St. James Co-Founder Kids N' Tennis, Inc.





In 1987, when Andre St. James met Donald Johnson, they saw a gap in Portland's youth sports landscape: few children of color were playing tennis. Determined to change that, they launched a summer camp at Irving Park, located in the heart of Portland's historically African American neighborhood. What began as summer camp quickly grew into a lasting community tennis program.

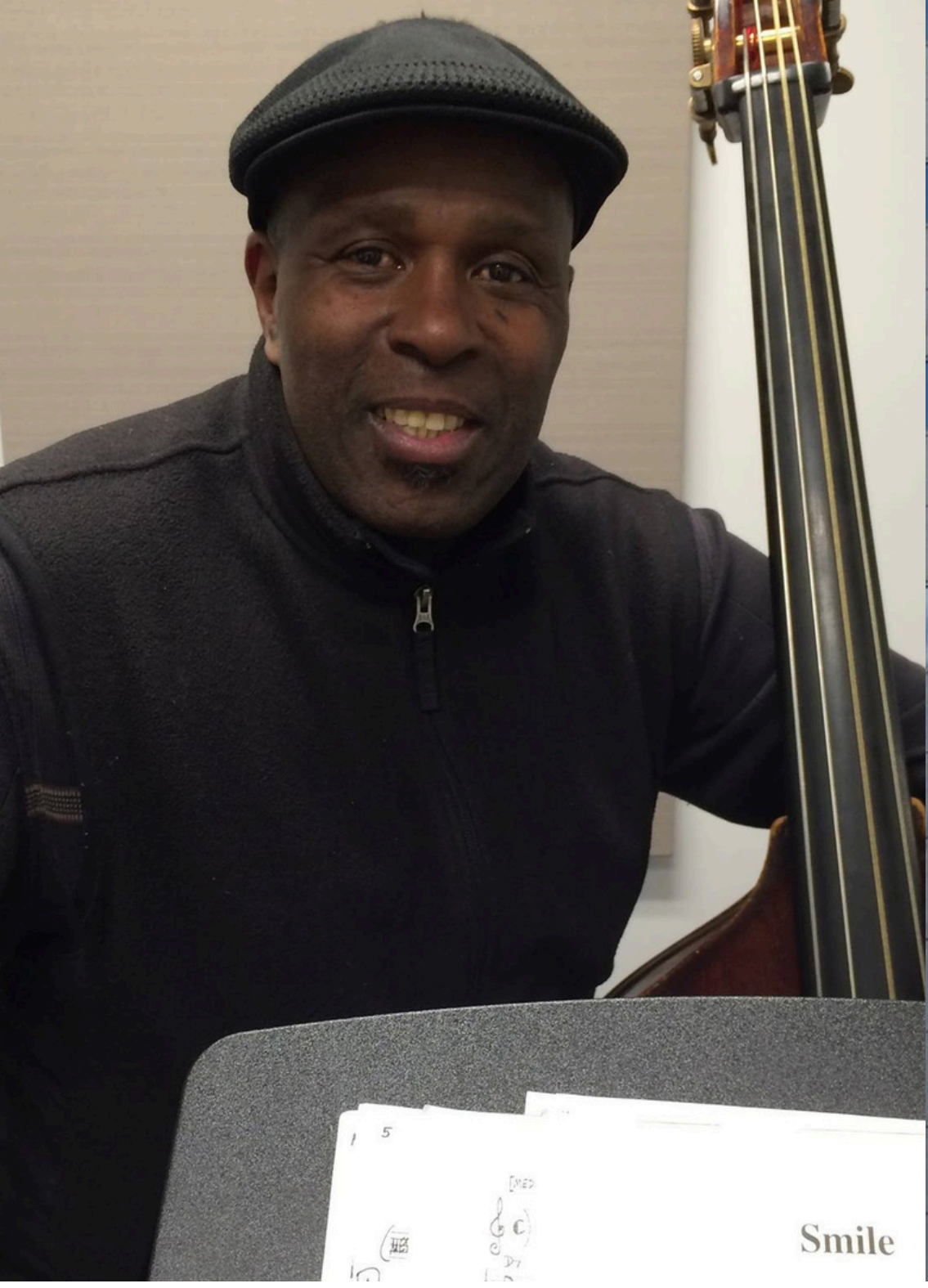
The camp was an immediate success — the children loved the game and kept asking for more. Johnson and St. James responded by expanding programs and access. They bought court at the Portland Northwest to form a Community Tennis Association and secured nonprofit status with 501(c)(3) recognition in 1982. Those first organizational steps laid the foundation for sustainable programming that could reach kids where they were: on neighborhood courts, in schools, and at community parks.

IN MEMORIAM

Coach Andre St. James — cofounder of Kids N' Tennis — passed away in 2018. A dedicated coach, mentor, and one of Portland's most respected jazz bassists, Andre shared himself of North and Northeast Portland. He performed with the Mel Brown Septet, the Gregory James Quartet, and the Kin Trio; taught bass at Reed College; and gave many years of service to Bravo Youth Youth orchestras, helping bring music to Portland's youth the way he brought them tennis.

Andre's imagination and generosity shaped countless young lives. His vision lives on every time a child picks up a racquet — or a first musical instrument — because someone believed in them. For his love, leadership, and lifelong commitment to community, we are deeply grateful.

Thank you, Coach Andre


Smile




THE FUTURE
OF TENNIS
STARTS HERE
NET GENERATION
OFFICIAL YOUTH TENNIS
OF THE USTA
USTA