LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT
JOHN AHERN

To our FWTEC Family,

In January 2021, we had just finished the second mandated facility closure and TennisWorks students were still in full distance learning mode. We did not know what the year would hold, and it felt so good to phase back in programming throughout the year. We can pride ourselves on our steadfast dedication to our mission of bringing people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds together to embrace the lifelong game of tennis, while serving under-resourced youth with the support of the community.

We solidified our commitment to that mission with a new three-year strategic plan that kicked off in June 2021. The goals outlined will enable us to remove barriers to participation, expand our free TennisWorks programs, and continue improving our facilities operations and infrastructure. The strategic plan is our blueprint and road map ensuring that the actions we take now are guided by our mission, vision, core values, and goals for a promising future.

Tennis has seen exponential growth since the beginning of the pandemic, and you all lit up our courts with infectious passion and excitement. Adult players filled our drills, clinics, leagues, and individual court times. Our new Junior Pathway was implemented to provide clarity on which class is the best fit for junior players. We feel fortunate to host new and returning players of all ages and levels at our facility!

Our TennisWorks programs had 760 program registrations for distance learning, off-site tennis and life skills instruction at various parks and schools, and in our own facility. Throughout the year, students enjoyed the benefits of being physically active through tennis, built trusting relationships, and further developed skills that will benefit them in all areas of their life.

We are honored and grateful to receive financial support for this work from grant partners, including an amazing $80,000 in grant funding from the Isora Foundation to support general operating expenses and youth scholarships. Combined with support from the greater FWTEC community, 51 unique students received scholarship assistance amounting to nearly $50,000.

After a two-year hiatus, the CommUNITY Gala re-connected us with so many of our friends, in a little fancier attire, and brought us together for an exciting evening where we exceeded our fundraising goal for TennisWorks programs. The night reiterated the power of sports and that everyone deserves a safe, welcoming environment to connect, learn, and grow.

As we look back at the year, we celebrate returning to so many things that bring us joy and are at the core of our community. We hope you know how grateful we are for your continuous support of the Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center!

Sincerely,

John Ahern
Board President
STRATEGIC PLAN
2021 - 2024

MISSION
We bring people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds together to embrace the lifelong game of tennis, while serving under-resourced youth with the support of the community.

VISION
To lead in building opportunity, confidence and success with the youth we serve.

GOALS
Grow TennisWorks program to increase reach, retention and impact.

Improve operations to support all programming.

Increase fundraising to support the organization's aspirations.

VALUES

Community
We are a community, not a club, where generous, caring, and supportive relationships are nourished.

Inclusivity
We are a home where every person is valued, respected, and welcomed authentically and without judgement.

Accountability
We commit to high standards in all we do, holding ourselves and each other accountable with compassion, honesty, and integrity.

Joy
We value the happiness our work brings to the world and believe that play is a vital component of a well-lived life.
Our free TennisWorks programming provides access to safe and supportive environments where students can strive for personal growth both on and off the tennis court.

“While there have been many disruptions, twists and turns, the depth of our relationships with TennisWorks students and families has been such a silver lining. Together, we have stayed connected, navigated challenges, and evolved to continue to leverage the sport of tennis and our community to improve physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being.” - Christine Nickels, Director of Education and Partnerships

We were beyond thrilled to be back in person in fall 2021 for in-school and after-school tennis with partner schools: Andersen, Bancroft, Folwell, and Urban Academy Charter School.
JUNIORS

Being back on court in 2021 brought community, new opportunity, joy, and competition to an already exciting year of junior programming. New junior pathways were introduced in an effort to streamline programming and were met with a great response from our community. This year, $48,185 was disbursed in scholarship assistance to remove financial barriers to participation, and 1,121 unique junior players of all ages filled our courts to have fun, compete, and learn in an inclusive and safe environment.

“Getting players and coaches back on the courts was tremendous. Providing a physical outlet, and just knowing we’re providing a safe enjoyable experience for our patrons that made a positive difference in their lives through a difficult time is what our community is all about.”

- Isaac McBroom, Director of Junior Tennis

ADULTS

Whether it was for drills, clinics, or leagues, our adult programs kept our courts and coaches busy. We added new beginner classes for new and returning players. More than 180 women participated in our Women’s Daytime League, more than 145 people spent their evenings or Sundays playing our singles and doubles in-house leagues, and in total, 1,044 unique participants played in our various adult programs. We hope you continue to grow your game in 2022!

“What a relief it was to get back on the courts full-time in 2021! What a blast. You realize how important something is to you when you are away from it and tennis and The Fort was surely missed by our patrons and coaches. We look forward to another fantastic year of tennis!”

- Robin Coverdale, Director of Tennis
NYSS CHAMPIONS

The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recognized the Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center as a National Youth Sports Strategy (NYSS) Champion in June 2021. The NYSS vision is that one day all youth will have the opportunity, motivation, and access to play sports — regardless of their race, ethnicity, sex, ability, or ZIP code. NYSS Champions are recognized for working toward achieving this vision, and FWTEC has demonstrated our organization’s commitment to support safe, fun, inclusive, developmentally appropriate, and accessible youth sports opportunities. We are so honored to be a NYSS Champion alongside so many other organizations partnering with HHS to improve the youth sports landscape in America!

JTT INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS

At the end of July, Coach Christian Maki and his Fred Wells 18U team took home the USTA Northern Junior Team Tennis 18U intermediate title!!! In bracket play, they defeated Lakeville Pride 31-14 in the Round of 16, Sioux Falls 22-17 in the Quarterfinals, Fargo 22-21 in the semifinals, and sealed the win beating Mandan 26-20 in the championship!

Fred Wells 18U 1: Abby Anderson, Matthew Card, Alexina Erickson, Emme Johnson, Anders Lange, Malia Meyer, Ben Pinto, John Talghader, Clara Thoemke
It was important to our founder, Fred Wells, to provide seniors with affordable access to our tennis facility. Today, the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center is proud to honor our deserving seniors with our annual Legends of The Fort award. This award is a distinction bestowed upon seniors who have demonstrated a long passion for tennis, and who have engaged the Fort community with their enthusiasm, volunteer service and commitment to FWTEC. It is because of their efforts that tennis will continue to thrive in the decades to come.

**Deb Frishberg**
Deb is a regular player at Monday drills, permanent court time, Womens’ Daytime League Doubles, and has supported many of our projects, including food deliveries to our students. Deb started volunteering with TennisWorks in 2016. She asked if she could bring in homemade cookies for the students, which received a 100% approval and is a highlight every session. Deb is one of our best “celebrators” and makes sure kids know when they are on the right track, whether in the classroom or on court.

**Karen Gjerstad**
Karen started playing in Womens’ Daytime League in 2009 and now drills regularly while playing weekly in a permanent court time group. She started volunteering in 2010 with our younger TennisWorks students in 3rd and 4th grade. Karen’s relationships are very deep with our students. When we transitioned to remote programming, Karen would include messages in our letters home to the students and supported our food drives. Whether in-person or from afar, Coach Karen is always there for the students.

**Nancy Lawrence**
In 2006, Nancy came on the last day of a TennisWorks session, which included pizza, prizes and mass confusion. In spite of that confusing start, her volunteer journey began and she has consistently volunteered twice a week with school programs since. Nancy has a special relationship with a group of 14 students from Andersen United Community School who she supported in both elementary and middle school. She is also a long-standing member of our TennisWorks Advisory Committee.
EVENTS

SUMMER SLAM

COMMUNITY GALA
Revenues
- Programs (52%)
- Fundraising & Contributions (27%)
- Court Time (16%)
- Other Income (5%)

Expenses
- Program Services (79%)
- Management & General (12.5%)
- Fundraising (8.5%)

Revenues & Other Support
- Program Revenues
- Support
- Other Revenues

Net Assets Released From Restrictions
Restrictions satisfied by payments or time

Total Revenues and Other Support Without Donor Restriction

Statement of Cash Flows
Cash at Beginning of Year
Cash at End of Year

Statement of Financial Position
Total Assets
Total Liabilities
Total Net Assets

DONORS

$80,000+
- Isora Foundation
- Tom & Michele Mingo
- USTA Foundation
- Andrea Boado & Mike Ile
- Tom & Michelle Bradley
- USTA Northern
- Dr. Chris & Linda Coetzee
- Frederic C. Collin Trust
- Visala & Joseph Goswitz
- Jeff & Lucy Heegaard
- Sally & Chris Leary
- Rick Rinkoff & Julia Ferguson
- Sheltering Arms Foundation

$25,000+
- Sumaya Abdullahi & Mamadou Toure
- Jeff & James Bernards
- Bob Beverage
- Andrea Birkeland
- David Brener & Sarah Hong
- Nancy Brown
- Josh & Tisha Colton
- Mike & Leslie Connelly
- Carol & Tom Culligan
- Benita & Eric Dieperink
- Philippe & Jeni Duliere
- Jack & Madeline Foss
- Tom & Debbie Frishberg
- Karen Gjerstad & Kent Simon
- LT Nguyen & Fred Hackstock
- Ann Hathaway
- John Hill
- Rose Lunka
- Margaret Madden
- Regal Wood Cabinets, LLC
- Peggy Reichert & Carl Ohn
- St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation
- David Schultz
- Richard & Marianne Seidenstricker
- Senior Tennis Players Club Inc
- Jeanie Sonstegard
- John & Kristin Tengwall
- Dr. Albert & Esther Tsai
- Jason, Joanne, & Jessie Tschida
- Nina Tuttle
- David Vanney & Cathy Ruther
- Jim Vaughan
- John Vaughan
- Patrice Werner
- Charlie & Ginger Alden
- James Bernards
- Bob Beverage
- Andrea Birkeland
- Dale Borgeson
- Cynthia & Bernard Brady
- Roseanne & David Byrne
- Patti & Ben Campbell
- Jane Casto
- Matt Crellin & Joan Cochran
- Matt Cummins
- Laura & John Dale
- Jeffrey Devens
- Amber & Ryan Ellingson
- Susan Elsas
- Marti & Ryan Estey
- Gretchen Faul
- Beverly Franklin
- Katie Gesensway
- Sue Gherity
- Nancy Greer
- Janet & Phil Hallaway
- Cindy Hames
- Tom & Monica Hangge
- Mike & Maureen Harms
- Seanne & Mike Harris
- Catherine Harvanko
- Karen Hoffman
- Paul Jacobson & Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson
- Kathleen & Eric Johnson
- Stacey Johnson
- Miriam Karmel
- Sarah Kempeinan
- Sarah & Steve Ketter
- William & Hillary Kiefer
- Matt & Alicia Klein
- Donald Kleven
- Julie Konop
- Bart Kosen
- Mark Kurilla
- Nianhong Liu
- Bill Lunka
- Joseph Mairs
- Susan Makela
- Matt & Zeny McCoy
- Medtronic
- Sonali Meyer
- Amy & David Moore
- Lisa & Andrew Mushett
- Marcie Myers
- Kevin & Brenna Nicholson
- Tom & Christine Nickels
- Judy & Larry Peterson
- Joe Popham
- Tom Quinn
- Roshan & Jennifer Rajkumar
- Christopher W. Reedy
- Ruby Rott
- Bill Sjoholm
- Kevin Skow
- Alan Steed
- Thomson Reuters
- Tom’s Market
- Sarah & Mark Tedweek
- Gale Van Buskirk
- Patricia Vauk
- Kevin & Rachel Veenstra
- Larry & Dawn Voelkers
- Kathy Vogel
- Peter Vujovich
- Cindy & Joe Walz
- Wells Fargo
- Margot Willett & Bob Miller

Up to $250
- John Carnahan & Leslie Yoder
- Michael & Cindy Harriage
- Peggy & Jeff Kline
- Luis Laguna
- Molly & Tom Peterson
- Kathleen Short
- Mary Kay Ulness

$1,000-$2,499
- Amy & David Moore
- Lisa & Andrew Mushett
- Marcie Myers
- Kevin & Brenna Nicholson
- Tom & Christine Nickels
- Judy & Larry Peterson
- Joe Popham
- Tom Quinn
- Roshan & Jennifer Rajkumar
- Christopher W. Reedy
- Ruby Rott
- Bill Sjoholm
- Kevin Skow
- Alan Steed
- Thomson Reuters
- Tom’s Market
- Sarah & Mark Tedweek
- Gale Van Buskirk
- Patricia Vauk
- Kevin & Rachel Veenstra
- Larry & Dawn Voelkers
- Kathy Vogel
- Peter Vujovich
- Cindy & Joe Walz
- Wells Fargo
- Margot Willett & Bob Miller

Up to $249
- Sumaya Abdullahi
- Mamadou Toure
Ameriprise Financial
Christopher Angell
Sybil Axner
Jonathan Baker
Steve Beall
Keith Becker
Molly Berkas
Simona & John Berkner
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Miriam Deskin
Cathy Duthie
Patricia Egan
Catherine Eggert
Laurie Ehle
Luke Elifson
Mark Engdahl
Sue Ersign
Sara Erickson & Nicholas Vogenthaler
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Bruce Field
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Molly Fischer
Alex Fong
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Dennis Hykes
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Deni Svendsen
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Terry Willems
Kirsten Zelmer
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Bill & Ann Wernz
In Memory of Aphiphone Vongsouvan
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Burroughs Community School
Randy Hedlund
Kari Lohse
Byron Miller
Mike Pederson
Mike & Julie Ziegler
In Memory of Dorthy Cartier
Jane Casto
In Memory of Janet Schissel
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In Memory of Maricarl Wallace
Jon Wallace
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Sara Krasny
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Nandong Liu
Patricia Mulcahy
Nackey Piedrahita
Olivia Paradise
Jason, Joanne, & Jessie Tschida
Sarah & Mark Twedt
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3M Open
All Iowa Lawn Tennis Club
Dana Arnold
Ashland Production
Babolat
Jo Baeker
Tamsin Barlow
Cindy Baune Fulton
Kari Bennett
Bent Paddle Brewing Company
Jan Bertsch
Bijoux by cindylou
BlackStack Brewing
BluGirl Soap Works
Susan Bohlke
Cynthia Brady
Nancy Brown
Victoria Burrow
Anne Burt
Cafe Latte
Kevin Cairns
Michele Caulfield
Tisha Colton
Robin Coverdale
Davanni’s
DeGidio’s
Edina Realty
Katie Eggert
Naomi Ehar
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Jackson Farley
FastSigns
Fat Lorenzo’s
Carolyn Glickstein
Great Lakes Clothing
Brahim Hadj Moussa
Sanny Harmes
Mary Henke
Angela Hilo
Julie Hoffer
Hotel Intercontinental St. Paul
Hyland Hills International Tennis Hall of Fame
Jan Kentala
Joan Kiersey
Heidi Johnson
Wendy Kelly
Janet Kolbu
Jennifer Lam
Sharon Larkins
Rachel LaTour
Judy Long
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Mike Lunka
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Mary Handknit Hats
Laurie Meidt
Michael Lynne’s Tennis Shop
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Minnesota Twins
Minnesota Vikings
Minnesota Wild
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Lisa & Andrew Musheft
Marcie Myers
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Leah Pau
Molly Peterson
PikNinja Pickleball
PuzzleWorks
Sonali Rajan
Molly Rarig
REM’s Virtual Reality Lab
RF Moeller
Michael Sabatke
Sand Valley Golf Resort
Clay Sollenberger
Solinco
Kathy Sommers
Levin Stewart
Tennis and Life Camp
Tennis Warehouse
The Egg Roll Queen
The Escape Game
The History Theatre
The New Standards
Thumper Pond Resort
Total Wine & More
Theresa Trolle
USTA National
USTA Northern
Verena Van Fleet
Yi Yang
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Tooli Wilkins
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Sanni Wurst
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**Executive Director:** Esther Tsai*  

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*Esther Tsai resigned in March 2022; Christine Nickels is the current Executive Director.

A special thank you to Yi Vang for providing many of the photos used in this Annual Report.
COMMUNITY

INCLUSIVITY

JOY

ACCOUNTABILITY

100 Federal Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55111
EIN# 41-1965977
fwtecc.org