

The 2017-2018 Annual Report

10 YEARS OF IMPACT











ACHIEVEMENTS

100% high school graduation vs. 70% citywide

84% college bound vs. 43% citywide

92% of students accepted to selective high schools

247 squash tournament entries (2017-2018)

13 college visits (2017-2018)

12 Main Draw winners in squash tournaments (2017-2018)

Four 1st Place winners in national essay competition

45 weeks of programming each year

20+ travel opportunities each year

Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award from Johns Hopkins University (2016)





ANNIVERSARY

When a small group of passionate athletes started SquashWise, we were confident that squash would open new doors for aspiring young people in Baltimore.

What we didn't know was how quickly our team of students, parents, staff, volunteers, partners and supporters would grow into a dynamic community united in friendship, fun, and mutual support.

On this milestone anniversary, we are so proud of how far we have come in ten years. Our holistic, long-term program layers academic tutoring and enrichment, squash coaching and competition, social-emotional development, mentoring, and leadership opportunities that position students for lifelong success in college, careers, and beyond.

What lies ahead as we start our second decade? We will graduate more students and support our alumni with regular check-ins and small scholarships to cover the hidden costs of college. Our High Performance Team will continue developing our highestpotential players and strengthen the pathway to college squash opportunities. Most exciting of all, we will continue working toward our ambitious vision to establish a SquashWise Youth Center, which will enable us to more than double our capacity and deepen our impact.

Your support has made our decade of impact possible, and we are honored to count you as part of the SquashWise Family. Together, we will serve up another ten years of expanded opportunities for Baltimore's youth!

Sage Platt Board Chair



Abby Markoe Executive Director

THE SQUASHWISE JOURNEY

Over 10 years, SquashWise has supported many students through their journey to college and career. This year, we take a look back on our own decade of development.





With a \$100k challenge grant from SEA and a facility partnership with Meadow Mill Athletic Club, we induct our first rookie class of 14 students.



Enrollment reaches 50 students. The First Annual SquashWise Rally is played at Meadow Mill Athletic Club.



Our staff grows to four full-time positions!



Students play in 25 tournaments, plus 17 matches against local school teams.



named in memory of founding Board Member, Jack Laporte: The Jack Laporte SquashWise Rally. SquashWise Rally.



A community of 500+ annual donors help SquashWise continue to grow.





We purchase our first bus for student transportation.



Students play in 10 tournaments and attend 11 different summer enrichment camps.







SQUASHWISE

ANNIVERSARY

10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

On October 18, 2018, the SquashWise community gathered for a spectacular celebration of our 10th Anniversary at the Mt. Washington Mill Dye House.

Nearly 300 guests enjoyed hearty hors d'oeuvres and toasted this milestone occasion. A team of Student Ambassadors led interactive stations where attendees could try their hand at a rookie tryout game, challenge friends to a trivia match about Baltimore's best and brightest, connect with individual students, and learn about the many ways to get involved with SquashWise.

After opening remarks from Julia Keelty, Event Chair and Board Member, founding Executive Director Abby Markoe offered her reflections on the organization's dynamic journey. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the speech made by Tavonte, who joined SquashWise in seventh grade and is currently a freshman at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.



Three years ago, I didn't play any sports. I was very inactive and I only stayed at home and slept on the weekends. [Since joining SquashWise], I've played in tournaments in Ohio and Massachusetts, stayed on campus at Williams College and Kenyon College, been to other squash programs in Philadelphia, [and] went to a five week boarding school at Taft School in Connecticut last summer...

In our SquashWise classroom, there is a sign that says, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" I know for a fact that no matter what happens, SquashWise will always be by my side and help me get through any problem or challenge that I face. Thank you for being here and supporting our team!"

We are tremendously thankful to each of our 100+ generous sponsors in making this event possible, with special thanks to our Presenting Sponsors: Julia and Michael Keelty, Andie Laporte, Judy and Scott Phares, Betsy and George Sherman, and Platt Development Group; and our Event Partners: the Himmelrich Family and Mt. Washington Mill Dye House, Copper Kitchen, La Cuchara, Superior Oyster Shuckers, True Chesapeake Oyster Co., Harrow, DJ Billy Zee, Loud Communications, Rob White Photography, Nathalie Cone Graphic Design, Sloane Brown's Baltimore Snap, and our media partner, WYPR.







TOP 10 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Become a Mentor, Tutor or Coach

Help Us Establish a SquashWise Youth Center

Host a Career Day or Internship

Connect Students with Your Network

Join a Team in the Jack Laporte SquashWise Rally

Donate Squash Gear

Make a Donation

Promote SquashWise

Donate a Van or SUV for Student Transportation

Challenge a Student to a Match!





PROGRAM PILLARS & OUTCOMES

Three Program Pillars frame our holistic approach to helping every student develop their potential.

EDUCATION

Develop motivated, goal-oriented students who are on track to succeed in post-secondary college and/or career opportunities

SQUASH & FITNESS

Lead a thriving squash program with a good balance of hard work, competitiveness, and fun

SUPPORT & WELLNESS

Create a second home and a second family for students, using counseling and education to support students in making positive decisions and following goals

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

In 2018, graduate students from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health conducted a qualitative evaluation of our program. From in-depth interviews with students, alumni and parents, the researchers found strong positive results:

"SquashWise [is] a channel through which students can explore the wider world. The program facilitated a growth in maturity...helped shape [students'] perspective on life, and taught them to search for positives, even when facing challenges or other disappointments."

EDUCATION

• 92% of this year's 8th graders qualified for high schools with entry requirements.

- 100% of this year's high school seniors graduated, with 80% accepted to one or more colleges.
- 86% of SquashWise alumni are actively engaged with regular check-ins, receiving in-person visits from staff, and small scholarships to assist with college costs.

SQUASH & FITNESS

- 80% of students completing PACER tests of cardiovascular endurance increased (31%) or maintained (49%) their scores from the previous series.
- Teams participated in 24 sanctioned tournaments hosted by U.S. Squash and the Squash + Education Alliance (SEA).
- Students challenged teams from 8 local schools and 1 peer SEA organization in a total of 19 competitive matches.

SUPPORT & WELLNESS

- We launched our Family Committee to more fully engage and respond to parents' expressed needs, with events promoting nutrition, fitness, and college planning.
- Our Student Leadership Council provided ongoing input on program design and opportunities for student leadership.
- Students participated in 5 service projects, including making care packages for homeless families at the Bea Gaddy Family Center and writing letters to state legislators about gun violence.

Social/Emotional Counseling

Our professional school counselor conducted 47 counseling sessions with students, parents, and families to address individual challenges and promote social/emotional well-being.



Middle School GPA Comparison

SquashWise middle school students consistently outperformed their peers, maintaining an average 4 point lead in grades in core subjects.



Non-SquashWise SquashWise SquashWise

High Performance Team

Thanks to generous funding from The Kahlert Foundation, our High Performance Team (HPT) was in high gear this year!

Open to our top performing players, HPT members commit to hours of additional practice and a demanding tournament schedule.

In 2017-2018, HPT accounted for 106 entries in 22 tournaments, and 7 students of the 10-person team achieved Main Draw winner or Main Draw finalist status in at least one event!

SquashWise served 46 middle school students, 37 high school students, and 15 alumni in college and career placements weeks of programming, including Spring Break Camp and 5 weeks of Summer Camp visits to colleges and universities



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

From new rookies to accomplished alumni, our students make incredible strides on the courts and in the classroom.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: JULIEANNA

Winning a "Most Improved: Squash" award halfway through her Rookie year was just the first of many accomplishments for Julieanna (8th Grade, KIPP Ujima Village Academy). An honor roll student with a perpetually positive attitude, she's already competed in five tournaments, including SEA's All-Girls and Urban Individuals Nationals, and spent two summers exploring Vermont at Camp Kiniya and with Overland Biking Tours.



The best parts of SquashWise are playing squash, meeting new friends, and knowing that people are here to help you. They provide so many opportunities and trips that help you figure out that you are capable of doing new things."

HIGH SCHOOL: SAVOY



Charismatic, committed and always optimistic, Savoy (12th Grade, Pikesville High School) has emerged as leader at SquashWise. Since joining the team as an 8th grade rookie, he's become passionate about squash and the community it brings together. He's served on the Student Leadership Council, stacked up 14 tournament entries, trained on the High Performance Team, and celebrated as a Main Draw winner with his squad at the 2018 Urban Teams

Nationals. This summer, he attended the Summer Science Academy at McDaniel College and journeyed to Israel as a fellow in the Elijah Cummings Youth Program. Now in his senior year, Savoy is ready and eager to "choose a college where I can succeed and do my best," with the ultimate goal of attending medical school.

ALUMNI: TAYLER



Since joining in 2008, Tayler has continued to set the bar high! She earned scholarships to intensive academic summer programs, braved Outward Bound wilderness courses, and capped off her high school career with a hard-fought Main Draw win in the B-Draw at Urban Individuals Nationals in 2015. She attends UMBC and looks forward to achieving her BA in Biology in 2019. "SquashWise is one of the best decisions I have made in life... the opportunity to

learn and grow within a caring, kind, and supportive community. Throughout my worst days and my good, the SquashWise staff has always provided me with the guidance and the 'helping hand' I need to push on and be the best version of me." Tayler's future plans include serving in the Armed Forces and pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. SquashWise is much more than a sports program. We provide expanded opportunities to enable students to reach life goals.

ENRICHMENT & GROWTH

COLLEGE & CAREER



Long before the typical junior year sprint of college visits, SquashWise students start exploring post-secondary options as early as middle school. This year, rookies got the chance to see academic and athletic excellence in action when they trained with the varsity squash team at the U.S. Naval

Academy! From taking day trips to institutions like George Washington University and Dickinson College, to playing in tournaments held at Franklin & Marshall, Williams, Amherst, and Kenyon Colleges, students come to feel at home in a college setting. Students also learned about varied career paths during career days at T. Rowe Price and 14 West, as well as networking events with squash players.

CITIZENSHIP & ADVOCACY



After sending letters to State representatives about gun violence, students were invited by Delegate Nick Mosby (District 40, Baltimore City) to visit Annapolis and observe Maryland's legislature in action. During 'Citizenship Week' of Summer Camp, students met with local activists and entrepreneurs about government advocacy, the role of the media, and other strategies for increasing civic engagement.

Guest speakers included Lady Brion Gill (Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle), Geoff Blake (MissionFit), Aaron Henkin (WYPR), and Frank Patinella (ACLU of Maryland).

At your young age, if your dreams do not scare you - if you're not afraid of those dreams - then you're not dreaming big enough." Del. Mosby to SquashWise students

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT



This year, SquashWise had 12 Main Draw winners in squash tournaments near and far! James (11th Grade, Mount Saint Joseph High School) was invited to join the SEA National High Performance Team, which distinguishes the top players from 19 member programs across the U.S. based on national rankings, work ethic, and athletic potential. As a member of this elite squad, he received top-flight coaching and participated in intensive training camps in Chicago and Boston.



EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES

Because of these experiences, I have multiple friends all over the world... from Hong Kong, Germany, Russia, Italy, and Costa Rica." Tavonte, 9th Grade

26 SquashWise students leveraged over \$70,000 in scholarship funds to participate in 19 enrichment programs, including:

ACADEMIC

- Regional Math/Science Center at Frostburg State University (2 students, Maryland)
- Summer Science Academy at McDaniel College (1 student, Maryland)
- Yleana Leadership Academy at Colgate University (1 student, New York)
- Hotchkiss Summer Portals at The Hotchkiss School (2 students, Connecticut)
- Young Scholars Program at The Taft School (1 student, Connecticut)

ENRICHMENT

- Camp Dudley & Camp Kiniya (6 students, Vermont/New York)
- Overland Camps for Biking, Writing, Hiking and Service (5 students, New England)
- SEA Urban Squash Citizenship Tour (1 student, East Coast)

SQUASH

- Sobhy Squash Camps (4 students, Maryland)
- Embrace Camp at SquashSmarts (4 students, Pennsylvania)
- Millman Experience (4 students, Tennessee)
- Mission Squash Service and Squash Camp (2 students, Texas)
- Penn Squash Camp at University of Pennsylvania (1 student, Pennsylvania)
- SEA Summer Training Squad at Deerfield (2 students, Massachusetts)
- SEA National High Performance Team Training Camps (1 student, Nationwide)



\$355,000: raised during the 7th annual Jack Laporte SquashWise Rally

\$17,650: of in-kind donations including gym memberships to Meadow Mill Athletic Club, squash tournament fees, squash gear, gift cards, school supplies, accounting services, office rent, and HVAC maintenance services. See donor list for in-kind donors.

\$600,159: FY18 Expenses

-\$528,439 program expenses (88%)

-\$71,720 administrative expenses (12%)

FINANCIAL

REPORT

SquashWise's FY18 audit and Form 990 will be available in early 2019 by contacting accounts@baltimoresquashwise.org or 443.682.7126



OUR SUPPORTERS

The Jack Laporte SquashWise Rally

We celebrated the 7th anniversary of our annual tournament-fundraiser, named in memory of founding board member, Jack Laporte. Proudly presented by T. Rowe Price, the 2018 Rally raised \$355,000, representing more than half of our budget! Donors to the Jack Laporte SquashWise Rally memorial event are noted throughout the "2017–2018 Supporters" list with the designation "JL."

Presenting Sponsor

T. Rowe Price

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Teams and Amounts Raised

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The Crusies, \$54,711

Sage Platt, Andie Laporte, Hayward Howard, Lanny Springs, Doug York & Ryan York

Brown Advisory, \$54,650

Chris Berrier, Taylor Tutrone, Eliza Schuster, David Chudy, Doug Borg

Hofflak, Squash Champions, A Division, \$41,700

Bill Krulak, Doug Hoffberger, Teddie Arnold, Chris Feiss, Chris Haley, Jared Spahn, Keith Hinder, John Porter

Team Meadow Mill, Squash Champions, B Division, \$23,758

Brian Mackey, Craig Medvecky, Charlie Metz, Jeff Rogers, Ed Brown, Albert Grosman, Paul Koprowski, Nancy Cushman

Ringe Ravens, \$19,435

Jacob Himmelrich, Sam Himmelrich, Carey Fetting-Smith, Mark Fetting, Steve McGuire, Ari Abramson

SquashWise Army, \$19,600

Bill White, Duke Murphy, Paul Harriss, Donal Doyle, Jack Woloszyn, Sam Willman, George Riggs

Women's Revolution, \$16,940

Ubu Grace Hoshizaki, Maureen Wylie, Leslie Connolly, Shelley Fowler, Suzanne Sangree, Lizz Everts, Pat Wong, Beth Garner, Ben Garner, Christi Tezak

The Club Road Crew, \$16,050

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Team STX, \$14,425

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Rich Repetto, Jon Neave, John Harmon, Matt Franke, Hugh Warns

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In-Kind and Facility Support

Meadow Mill Athletic Club Andy Nelson's BBQ Blue Pit BBQ Harrow La Cuchara The Platt Family

Junior Rally

The Junior Rally raised more than \$8,000 for SquashWise! The event brings junior squash players together to advocate for SquashWise and compete in a fun squash tournament. Thanks to our 2017 sponsors: Harrow, OrthoMaryland, Physical Therapy at Bare Hills, BGE, Quercus, and McDonogh School. In response to Hurricane Harvey last fall, SquashWise students decided to donate 100% of its team's proceeds and 10% of overall event proceeds to Mission Squash, our peer program in Houston.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

SquashWise is touched when friends and family choose to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

In Memory of Jack Laporte

Donors to the Jack Laporte SquashWise Rally memorial event are noted throughout the "2017–2018 Supporters" list with the designation "JL."

In Memory of Jervis Finney

Donations made in memory of Jervis Finney, including to the 'Juniors for Jerve' Junior Rally team, are noted throughout the "2017–2018 Supporters" list with the designation "JF."

In Memory of Sam & Jane Gensler

Matthew Skarzvnski In Honor of Zach Bradlev Nina Bradley In Honor of Edward Brown Henry Brown In Honor of Cromwell Valley Elementary Magnet School 2017-2018 Fifth Grade Class Florence Falatko In Honor of Eva & Whitney Finney Kathy Finney In Honor of Beth Garner Julie & Griff Aldrich In Honor of Bruce Jordan Thomas Gowen Suzanne Sangree

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Ellen Claire Newcomer The Mary Jean & Oliver Travers

Foundation honored: Nancy Cushman Doug Hoffberger Abby Markoe Jim Meek

In Honor of Omar Sobhy

Friends of Omar Sobhy donated in his honor during his competition in GoRuck Selection. These donors are noted throughout the "2017–2018 Supporters" list with the designation "OS."

2017–2018 Supporters

This list includes all donors during our fiscal year, July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018. Our generous FY19 donors will be recognized in the next annual report.

\$20,000 and above

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17 • The 2017-2018 Annual Report

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