

Pathways to COLLEGE

CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
OF THE
CARY LEEDS CENTER

JOIN US
May 22
2025



NEW YORK JUNIOR TENNIS & LEARNING

Ziegfeld • Ballroom

Welcome to Our Gala Celebration

Dear New York Junior Tennis & Learning Family and Friends,

Welcome to a very special evening celebrating PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE and the 10th anniversary of the Cary Leeds Center for Tennis & Learning. Thank you for joining us tonight.

Every day, NYJTL invests in the education, wellness, and character development of thousands of young people across all five boroughs at 100 sites. Tennis provides the vehicle for this journey by cultivating critical thinking, resilience, self-direction, and a competitive spirit in our participants. Founded in 1971 by Arthur Ashe, NYJTL is proud to be the largest youth tennis and education nonprofit in the country, dedicated to helping youth chart their own paths through our free programs:

- Our **Community Tennis Program** provides year-round free tennis instruction at parks, playgrounds, schoolyards, gyms, and community centers.
- Our **ACES Afterschool Program** provides academic enrichment, homework help, and character-building activities, keeping students engaged during school days, breaks, and summer months.
- Our flagship home at the **Cary Leeds Center for Tennis & Learning** in the South Bronx offers first-class athletic and academic resources, serving families from one of the nation's most underserved communities. It is also the only DYCD Saturday Night Lights tennis site, bringing youth and police together to strengthen community relations through tennis.

- Our **Scholar Athlete Program** offers intensive tennis, education, and life skills instruction beginning in third grade and creates a clear pathway to college for its participants.
- Our **School Time Tennis Program** trains physical education teachers to introduce tennis fundamentals to tens of thousands of students, embedding the sport into NYC school curricula.

Over the past year, we have made excellent progress toward achieving each of the five main goals contained in our 2024 strategic plan:

- Create connected pathways for all youth to experience the benefits of tennis.
- Provide aligned curricula and support to our ACES after-school programs to improve quality.
- Strategically balance community and commercial offerings at the Cary Leeds Center.
- Grow and diversify funding sources.
- Enhance operations and staff support.

Tonight, we proudly honor Robert Rahr and Kim Clijsters for their unwavering support of NYJTL's mission to develop the character of young people through tennis and education for a lifetime of success on and off the court. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to our board and staff who make this event possible.

Your generosity tonight ensures that NYJTL will continue transforming lives through tennis and education, positively impacting thousands of NYC youth.

Thank you for joining us and for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Bob Horne and Uday Tambar
Board Chair and President & CEO

Our Programs

ACES AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Our afterschool program serves 5,000 youth K-12, providing a safe and nurturing environment for children during the critical afterschool hours.

COMMUNITY TENNIS PROGRAM

Free tennis instruction, equipment, and competition year-round for 10,000 participants ages 5-19 in schools and public parks across all five boroughs.

NYJTL is the largest tennis and education nonprofit in the nation, reaching 90,000 K-12 NYC youth.

Pathways
to
COLLEGE

SCHOOL TIME TENNIS PROGRAM

Trains hundreds of NYC public school PE teachers to teach tennis fundamentals.

Teachers receive free equipment, lesson plans, and 6.5 hours of continuing education credit.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE PROGRAM

Guides students in grades 3-12 along their paths to college. Students, selected based on tennis ability, scholastic achievement, and family income, receive academic support, test preparation, admissions counseling, and top-tier tennis instruction.

Financial assistance is provided for transportation and tournaments.

All NYJTL community and afterschool programs are offered at no cost to the participants.

CARY LEEDS CENTER FOR TENNIS & LEARNING

Our flagship facility, boasting 20 tennis courts, two stadium courts, and multipurpose classroom and event spaces. It offers a mix of commercial and free programs for all ages and serves as a community hub, partnering with local NYPD precincts and public housing residents.

Meet Our Honoree



Robert Rahr
Board Member Emeritus
**Charles B. Benenson
Leadership Award
Recipient**

Robert is the founder and managing partner of Grand Slam Advisors LLC, providing investment, tax, trust, and philanthropic advisory services to a single family office. He was previously CFO of Optical Distributor Group and held senior roles at Lantern Asset Management, Ally Financial, and Cerberus Operations & Advisory Company, where he led restructurings, acquisitions, and financings across multiple sectors. At Kinray, Inc., he served in various executive positions, helping drive record revenue growth. He began his career in fixed income at Montgomery Securities and Salomon Brothers. Robert holds a J.D. from Chicago Kent College of Law and a B.A. from the University of Michigan. He is a member of the New York State Bar and is Director Emeritus at New York Junior Tennis & Learning.

Meet Our Honoree



Kim Clijsters
Former World No. 1
Four-Time Grand Slam
Champion & Hall of Famer
**NYJTL Leadership
Award Recipient**

Kim Clijsters is a former WTA World No.1 in both singles and doubles. She won a total of 41 singles titles, including four Grand Slam titles: three at the US Open (in 2005, 2009, and 2010) and one at the Australian Open (in 2011). She was also runner-up in four Grand Slam singles tournaments.

Clijsters won the WTA Tour season-ending Championships singles title three times (2002, 2003, 2010). In 2001, she was part of the Belgium Fed Cup winning team. Clijsters was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on 22 July 2017 and has been appointed honorary president of the Hall of Fame on 25 August 2022.

Meet Our Guest Speaker



Ritchie Torres
15th Congressional
District Representative

Rep. Ritchie Torres is a fighter from the Bronx who has spent his entire life working for the community he calls home. Like many in the Bronx, poverty and struggle have never been abstractions to him. At 25, Ritchie became NYC's youngest elected official and the first openly LGBTQ person elected in the Bronx. He is a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

Gala Chairs

Bob Horne

Tory Kiam

Kyle Kliegerman

Polly Scott

Honorary Chairs

Larry Leeds

Steven Simkin

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