



PRESS RELEASE

Free Tennis Camp at Van Horn Park for Springfield Youth

Renowned UMass Amherst tennis coach Judy Dixon shares talent with Springfield children

Springfield, MA (Friday, July 14, 2017) Children attending a two-week, free tennis camp will learn from one of the region's best on Monday, July 24 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at Van Horn Park, 494 Armory St., Springfield.

The media is welcome to attend this event event, which will include former UMass Amherst Head Coach Judy Dixon.

The tennis lessons at the two-week camp have been provided courtesy of **Moving on Up with Tennis and Education**, an official National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) Chapter. Tennis professionals from the area have been volunteering their time to teach 15 Sullivan children the art and mechanics of the game. They are playing on a makeshift court usually used for basketball.

All tennis equipment for the program, including nets, tennis rackets and balls, has been donated through grants by USTA New England. Pat Murry, the Presidents of Moving on Up, is a tennis player herself who helped organize the camp, said tennis is a sport easily learned and played, and can inspire a lifelong love of the game.

"It's a great way for inner-city children to be exposed to and learn a sport they can carry with them throughout their lives," said Murry. "I grew up playing tennis, so I know how much fun it is and how good it is for children. This is something they will have for the rest of their lives."

Murry continued, "We're so excited to have Coach Dixon volunteer her time as she loves to give back to the sport and our community."

Dixon recently retired as the Head Women's Tennis Coach at UMass Amherst. She coached the women's tennis team from 1993-2017 and the men's team from 1993-2001. In her tenure at UMass, Dixon set coaching records, compiling more wins than anyone in school history (316). She took home six A-10 Coach of the Year honors, and this year, won the Wilson/ITA Northeast Women's Tennis Coach of the Year.

About Moving on Up

Moving on Up with Tennis & Education is a new organization of dedicated volunteers with a focus on providing opportunities to underserved youth in Greater Springfield, Massachusetts. The organization's mission is "to promote the physical and mental development of inner city youth through Tennis and Education in Greater Springfield." MOU is part of the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) Network which provides free or low-cost tennis and education programming to more than 225,000 under-resourced youth around the country.

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