

## SquashScholars News Letter

Volume 1, Number 3

December 27, 2007

### **General Mills Foundation Awards Project Grant**

On December 11, 2007, the General Mills Foundation awarded SquashScholars a \$10,000 project grant under its “Celebrating Communities of Color” program. That program is a \$500,000 initiative now in its fourth year. Since 2004, the program has served more than 250,000 people in the metro area, most of whom are people of color. According to Program Manager Adrienne Jordan, fifty recipients were chosen from over 200 applications. Jordan, who made a site visit in October with two employee volunteers during our third week of operations, acknowledged that SquashScholars was a very new program, but one with great energy, significant volunteer support, and high potential.

The project funded by this award will focus on fitness and nutrition. Graduate students from The Schools of Kinesiology and Public Health will design a nutrition curriculum and plan and a fitness model to focus our attention on these areas and collect appropriate data on student outcomes. At the end of the school year their analysis will be available in a written report and through our website.



SquashScholars is very pleased to be recognized by such an outstanding corporation and its foundation. BusinessWeek magazine recently ranked General Mills as the one of the nation’s “Most Generous Corporate Donors.” In addition, the company was listed as one of the top 10 “Best Corporate Citizens” by CRO Magazine, and in 2007, United Way of America honored General Mills with the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Spirit of America<sup>®</sup> Corporate Community Investment Summit Award.

### **Top Students for Fall Semester Honored**

Shakina Hickbottom and Farah Hassan were selected as the top students for the Fall Semester, 2007. Both demonstrated concerted effort, focused concentration and cooperation in the classroom and worked hard on improving their squash skills. Each received a \$50 gift card redeemable at a local merchant. Shakina is shown here concentrating on homework. Farah will be pictured in the next newsletter.



## Introducing SquashScholars Academic Staff

SquashScholars and the University of Minnesota Multicultural Center for Academic



Excellence (MCAE) have partnered since day one to recruit, hire, and train our academic staff. Funded by the America Reads Family Literacy Program managed by Jean Strommer, we were able to hire our Academic Director, Serina Jamison from Milwaukee, WI and seven tutors. Serina is a pre-law sophomore majoring in Communications with several years experience tutoring and working with young students.

The roster of tutors includes:

Khadijo Ismail of Pelican Rapids, MN who is Somalia-born, Kiersha Mauch, a child psychology major from Adrian, MN, Pa Lee, a badminton player from Edison High in Minneapolis, (Pa pictured at right, putting splint on Kiersha's "broken arm" in First Aid Training class.)



Jennifer Lee now of Coon Rapids after growing up in California, Eric Grauvilardell, an Argentinian rugby player studying business,

Nadhia Fuentes, our resident vegetarian nutrition expert from Mankato, MN, Matha Her, lifelong resident of North Mpls, attended Patrick Henry High School.

As one might expect from a multicultural center, our tutors represent many parts of the world, from Asia to Africa, from South America to southern Minnesota. They also bring extensive experience in tutoring and other volunteer efforts from their high school and college years. SquashScholars is very fortunate to have such a diverse group of helpers.



Tutors catch a break, watching a little squash  
L-R: Kiersha, Khadijo, Pa, Matha, Jennifer, Eric (2<sup>nd</sup> row), Nadhia, Serina

## 2007 Tax Year

Time remains for charitable giving in the 2007 tax year. While the grant award we just received from the General Mills Foundation is a wonderful gift, it does not go toward general operating expenses such as transportation and insurance. SquashScholars does and will always rely on the generosity of individual donors. You can help by printing just this page, completing the information below and returning it with your contribution to:

SquashScholars  
111 Marquette Ave. Suite 1407  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2030

I would like to help SquashScholars students reach their potential with my gift of:

\_\_\_ \$1000    \_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (h/w/c) \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider applying for a matching grant through your employer.

SquashScholars is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift is fully deductible.

**Thank you for your generosity!**