



**TENNIS**NRG  
CHARITABLE

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*Annual Report 2024*



## Foreword

*As we reflect on 2024, it is with great pride and excitement that we present the inaugural annual report for TennisNRG. What began as an ambitious vision to support young tennis players with financial and developmental resources has quickly grown into a fully realized mission—one that is already making a meaningful impact.*

*This past year marked the formal beginning of our journey. On June 20th, we established our Employer Identification Number (EIN), laying the legal and organizational groundwork for what was to come. Less than a month later, on July 16th, we officially received our tax-exempt status, solidifying TennisNRG's place in the nonprofit landscape.*

*Momentum continued to build through the fall. On October 15th, the Board of Directors confirmed the initial 17 dedicated and deserving players to receive support through our programs. Less than a month later, on November 10th, the very first grants were disbursed, turning our mission into tangible support.*

*As the year drew to a close, we launched the NRG Personal Development Program (PDP) on December 10th, an initiative designed to go beyond the court—helping our athletes grow in character, confidence, and life-readiness.*

*These milestones represent more than just dates on a calendar—they are the foundation for a support structure to empower youth through tennis and to create pathways of opportunity.*

*We are grateful to our supporters, partners, board members, and—most importantly—the players, whose passion inspires everything we do.*

*With gratitude,*



**Carlos Perez**  
Executive Director  
TennisNRG Charitable



## *Mission and Focus on Personal Development*

TennisNRG Charitable is focused on its mission of providing a strong support system around aspiring tennis players who want to excel both on and off the court. Unlike other tennis grant programs that may prioritize on-court performance, TennisNRG Charitable emphasizes personal development as an integral part of its approach. Our aim is to support well-rounded individuals who not only succeed in tennis but also develop strong character, leadership skills, professional Independence skills, and give back to their community.



# Our Core Values

## Courage

We empower our athletes to face challenges head-on—whether it's on the court, in the classroom, or in life. Courage means stepping into the unknown, pushing through fear, and doing the right thing even when it's hard. It's the foundation of growth, leadership, and true strength.

## Heart

We play with passion, lead with compassion, and give our all in everything we do. Heart is about showing up fully—not just for ourselves, but for our teammates, coaches, families, and communities. It's the drive that fuels perseverance and the empathy that builds strong character.

## Excellence

We are committed to the highest standards in athletic training, education, and personal development. We inspire athletes to strive for greatness—on and off the court.

## Integrity

We believe in doing the right thing—even when no one is watching. Integrity means being honest, respectful, and responsible in every action, both on and off the court. It builds trust, earns respect, and lays the groundwork for lasting success.

## Persistence

We never give up. Whether it's training through tough days, learning from losses, or chasing big goals, we show up with consistency and determination. Persistence is what turns potential into progress.

## Community

We are stronger together. Through service, support, and collaboration, we uplift not just individuals, but entire communities.

## Visionary

We don't just focus on today—we're building for the future. Being visionary means dreaming big, thinking beyond limits, and inspiring young athletes to imagine who they can become—on the court and in life.

## Curiosity

We encourage questions, exploration, and a love for learning. Curiosity keeps our minds open, helps us grow as athletes and people, and inspires us to always ask: What's possible next?



# Board of Directors



John Leavitt, Chair

John has been a Financial Consultant with Thrivent Financial for 19 years. Thrivent is a diversified financial services organization offering advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs. The organization is listed on the Fortune 500 and reported \$179 billion in assets under management and advisement as of December 31, 2023. John has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity International in North America, Africa, and Asia. He earned a bachelor's degree in Marketing Management from Florida Southern College, a graduate certificate in Financial Planning from Boston University, and completed executive education in Wealth Management Theory at The Yale School of Management.



Ruben Vargas, Treasurer

Ruben is one of eight siblings and has been married to Deanna Vargas for 28 years. They have two children: Meagan, a tennis coach and English teacher, and Tanner, a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A graduate of West Texas State University (B.A. in Education, 1983), he began his tennis journey at Hereford High School and played collegiately from 1979–1983. He served as Head Tennis Coach at Hereford High (1983–1989) and Vernon High (1989–2016). Under his leadership, Vernon's team became undefeated district champions for 27 consecutive years and five-time TTCA State Team Tennis Champions. His players consistently qualified for UIL State, earning nine individual titles. A decorated coach, he received numerous honors including TTCA Coach of the Year, the Ike Groce Vision Award, and NFHSCA National Coach of the Year. He also served as TTCA President from 2011–2012.



Brian Boman, Secretary

Dr. Boman has been a leading figure in advancing microirrigation within Florida's \$10 billion citrus industry since the 1980s. His early research addressed system efficiency and demonstrated that microirrigation not only overcame initial concerns but also enhanced production over traditional methods. His work showed that pairing microirrigation with fertigation accelerated young tree growth, increased fruit yield and size, and improved profitability. Dr. Boman has published over 300 scholarly and extension works and has dedicated much of his career to supporting farmers in developing countries. His international efforts span over 30 nations, including extensive work in Haiti over the past 15 years.

# Advisory Board



Dr. Marcia Bedasse

Dr. Bedasse, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, has dedicated over 25 years to public education, serving in roles such as classroom teacher, literacy coach, school administrator, and district instructional specialist. She holds certifications in elementary education, reading, special education, and educational leadership, and is a National Board Certified Teacher in early and middle childhood literacy. Passionate about addressing the literacy needs of disadvantaged students, she has served as president of the Palm Beach County Reading Council and actively mentors literacy educators. Her research focuses on improving achievement among minority students, strategies for turning around low-performing schools, and empowering teachers in high-minority, underperforming settings. Dr. Bedasse is married to Robert, and they have two adult children, Giselle and Dominick. Outside of her professional work, she enjoys gardening and traveling with her family.



Christopher R Danford

Chris is the Revenue Growth Director for Thrivent Financial's Southeast Region, based in Jacksonville, Florida. With 29 years at Thrivent, he began as a Financial Professional in Illinois, then served as a Financial Consultant in Florida before moving into leadership roles for the past 19 years. He focuses on helping veteran financial professionals grow their revenue, achieve personal and professional goals, and improve practice systems. A licensed financial advisor and principal, he is a Pareto Certified Coach and a member of the General Agents Managers Association. His region consistently ranks in Thrivent's top five nationally. Chris also served on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Services of Florida and is on its finance committee. Married to Shari for 35 years, they have four children and two grandchildren. He enjoys time with family, gardening, traveling, sports events, pickleball, and golf. His core values include faith, family, hard work, and integrity. He lives in Yulee, Florida.

# Financial Support for Player Development

**TennisNRG Charitable is dedicated to supporting the development of young athletes in tennis by providing grants to help cover necessary expenses related to tennis development, academic support, and overall personal growth.**

## **Permissible student-athlete support:**

- **Academic Support:** Funding is available for educational resources such as tutoring, academic counseling, or other services that support the player's academic success.
- **Player-Selected Coaching:** Funding is available for coaching services that contribute to the athlete's tennis development.
- **Travel Expenses:** Support is available for travel expenses (e.g., airfare, lodging) related to attending tennis-related events.
- **Tennis Equipment:** Financial assistance is provided for necessary tennis equipment required for training and competition.
- **Sport-Related Healthcare:** Funds are available for physical therapy, injury prevention, or medical treatments necessary for participation in tennis.



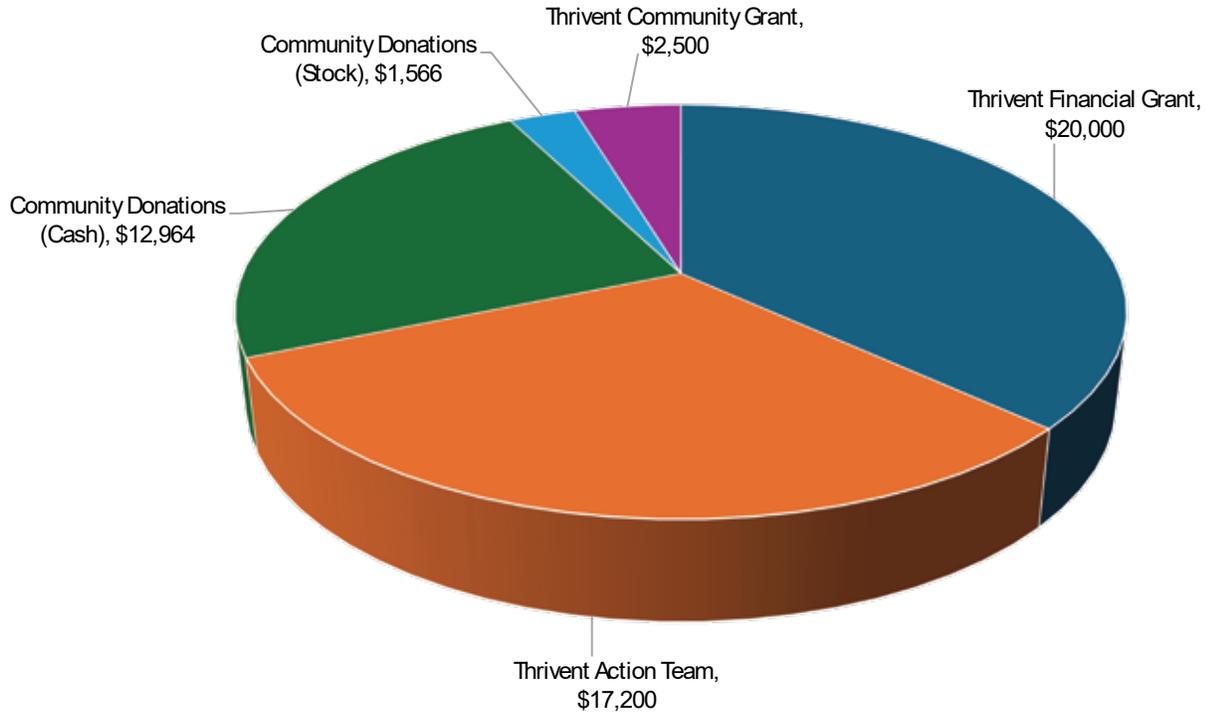


## ***Personal Development Program***

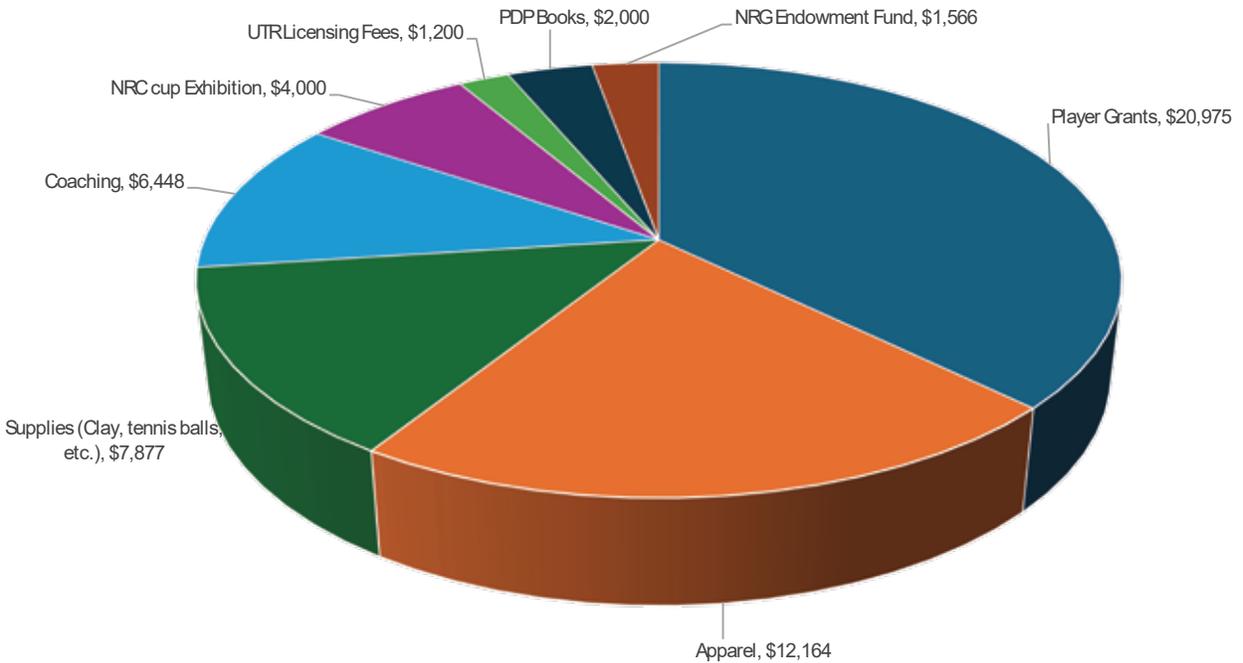
### ***Core Development Areas***

- *Good Habit Formation, Time Management, and Goal Setting*
- *Communication Skills – Written & Verbal*
- *Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking*
- *Emotional Intelligence & Inner Growth*
- *Financial Literacy*
- *Community Involvement*
  
- *Overcoming Adversity in Sports*
- *Injuries: Mental + Physical recovery*
- *Performance slumps: Rebuilding confidence*
- *Pressure to win: Managing stress & expectations*
- *Mental toughness: Handling fear and doubt*
- *Rivalries & competition: Staying focused*
- *Team dynamics: Communication and leadership*
- *Burnout: Recognizing and reversing it*

# Total Donations Raised



*To ensure transparency and impact : 100% of the funds we raise are dedicated to supporting the mission of TennisNRG Charitable.*



## ***Thank you for believing in our mission.***

*Your generosity empowers young athletes to grow through tennis. Because of you, their future is brighter on and off the court. We are deeply grateful for your continued support.*

- ***Thrivent Financial***
- ***John & Natalia Leavitt***
- ***James & Nancy Pace***
- ***Hartmut & Carmen Schlopsna***
- ***Dustin & Veronica Fraticelli***
- ***Bernardo Perez-Villa***
- ***Debra Linder***
- ***Brian & Myrna Boman***
- ***Joseph and Doris Hudson***
- ***Kenneth Seger & Rahna Grindahl***
- ***Linda Ott***
- ***Sue Dolbow***
- ***Nathan & Brooke Leavitt***
- ***Jamie & Kristen Leavitt***
- ***Rusty & Lynn Leavitt***
- ***Greg & Jenae Douglas***
- ***Robert and Trisha Depasquale***



## Carlos Perez

Executive Director

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