MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the board and staff of GACTA and Aces in Motion (AIM). As Executive Director, I want to say that I am very grateful that so many of you have trusted us with your support and partnered with us in strengthening our Gainesville community. As we begin 2018, we couldn’t be more excited about what we have accomplished in the past year, but more importantly, what is to come. After being recognized at state and national levels by being awarded the NJTL Chapter of the Year by the USTA and the Member Organization of the Year by USTA Florida in 2016, we have used that recognition to establish ourselves as a viable organization that is here to stay.

Aces in Motion strives to provide life-changing programs for under-served youth. We continue to demonstrate that our sports-based youth development approach is effective and can prepare our youth for a bright future in accomplishing their academic, life, and athletic goals. Many of our students are raised by single parents or relatives and are living in areas where poverty, teen pregnancy, gang activity, and low academic performance are a reality. However, with your support, AIM is helping our students excel and achieve their goals.

With your partnership, we will continue tackling the disturbing disparities in our community by providing quality after-school programming, tennis & education outreach in schools and low-income communities, and adaptive tennis opportunities through Special Olympics. Our after-school program for middle and high school students has become our signature program. Our student-athletes see a positive role models and mentors five days a week who provide consistent encouragement and support. We are proud to announce that we are signing our second-year partnership agreement with the University of Florida to continue bringing our students onto campus four days per week through Gators in Motion, a UF TRSM Dept./Aces in Motion/UF FYCS collaboration. We feel this program is the future of AIM as it has allowed us to provide consistent 1-on-1 tutoring, campus field trips, and valuable exposure to university campus life to many students who will be the first in their family to attend college. Our adaptive tennis program is experiencing great success at the local, county, and state level as well. At the 2017 State Special Olympics Summer Games, 20 athletes represented Alachua County, all of whom were trained weekly by Aces in Motion. We are excited to continue serving the special needs population in Alachua County.

With additional funding, we can serve more youth, provide more role models, and purchase more computers so our students can be prepared for life beyond the court. As a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, Aces in Motion is dependent upon charitable contributions to continue providing our youth with the support they need to experience post-secondary success. As you plan your annual giving, we ask you to consider supporting Aces in Motion. We accept online, checks, credit cards, gifts of stock, and other forms of donations (made possible through the Community Foundation of North Central Florida).

Please help us continue coaching kids for beyond the court!

Best regards,

Addison Staples
GACTA Executive Director
OUR MISSION
GACTA promotes health, academic achievement and character development through tennis.

OUR CORE VALUES:
Aces in Motion VALUES the LADRR to Success!

- Love
- Ambition
- Discipline
- Respect
- Responsibility

WHO DO WE SERVE?
GACTA reaches approximately 850 youth annually, ages 5 through 18 and offers a variety of tennis-related programming. Since 2011, GACTA has coordinated the only Middle School Tennis League in the county. In 2017, over 160 players from nine schools participated in this league. Aces in Motion (AIM) is GACTA’s largest program and primarily serves children of color living in under-resourced neighborhoods and people with special needs. AIM provides tennis/education outreach programming for primarily elementary aged students at over ten sites, including schools, centers, and neighborhoods. In addition, we operate a comprehensive, five-day per week after-school program that serves primarily middle and high school students. All Aces in Motion programming is provided free of charge, which is made possible through a combination of grants, individual donations, corporate sponsorships, and volunteer assistance.
The Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association was founded in 2004 and received 501(c) status in 2009. The organization successfully advocated for the construction of the public 14 clay court facility, Jonesville Tennis Center and provided after-school tennis instruction at public elementary schools, in partnership with the Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP). The concept for Aces in Motion began in the summer of 2012, when GACTA initiated a partnership with the 21st Century Community Learning Center program at Howard Bishop Middle School. After reviving old tennis courts there, an after-school tennis club for low-income youth was begun in the fall by volunteer tennis coaches Addison Staples, Chris McDonald, and Elizabeth Patterson. The HBMS tennis team practiced weekly after school and competed for the first time in spring 2013 in GACTA’s Middle School Tennis League. This HBMS tennis team formed the core student group of a fledgling tennis/education program called Aces in Motion.

Addison Staples was hired as GACTA’s first Executive Director, effective January 1st, 2014, and GACTA was accepted as a chapter in the USTA Foundation’s National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network. Our goal was to develop a premier sports-based youth development program to change the trajectory of children’s lives. Over the past four years, we have established many productive partnerships-- with families, schools, other non-profits, the city of Gainesville, the University of Florida, the USTA Foundation, and the community. In addition to providing tennis/life skills instruction in an after-school setting at a number of schools, we have evolved into a full-service, five-day-per-week after-school program for middle and high school students from under-resourced families. We currently have four full-time staff members, our Executive Director, Program Director, Academic Director, and AIM Manager.

The Gators in Motion program, representing a partnership between the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sports Management (College of Health and Human Performance) and GACTA, began operation on the UF campus in January 2017. Aces in Motion middle and high school students were transported after school to the Florida Gym two days a week to experience college life, receive homework assistance and tutoring from UF students, and participate in a variety of enrichment activities. Because of the success of the pilot program, in fall 2017, the program was expanded to three days per week, and in spring 2018, we are planning to expand GIM to four days/week.
WHY ACES IN MOTION?

Aces in Motion’s goal is to help develop and support the whole child, in terms of health, academics, and social-emotional development. As a sports-based youth development program, we teach the sport of tennis, emphasizing the many intangible factors associated with the sport that also positively impact academic achievement and life-skills development.

We help kids embrace healthy lifestyles. AIM kids learn the sport of tennis, take part in hands-on nutritional lessons, and are encouraged to be physically active.

We teach kids essential academic and leadership skills. We encourage our participants to value education and life-long learning.

We connect kids to caring coaches and mentors, and help them feel welcomed and valued.

We expose students to life on a university campus, to help them develop a road map to post-secondary success.

What Does AIM Do?
Provides a comprehensive 5-day-per-week After-School program serving middle and high school students from low-income families, emphasizing academic achievement, character development, and physical activity, which includes:

- Homework assistance
- 1:1 and small group tutoring
- Mentorship, including emphasis on college/career readiness
- Field trips to provide cultural and college exposure
- Enrichment activities, such as cooking classes and STEM activities
- Parental education, engagement and support
- Community service
- Physical activity including tennis instruction and sport sampling on the UF campus

Provides a “Coaches in Training” program for AIM students entering high school, which includes a college/career readiness curriculum and other academic support. Participation in this program can also lead to employment opportunities with AIM and other youth-development organizations. Tracking and evaluating student performance is a high priority of the AIM After-School Program. The UF Dept. of TRSM faculty members assist in program monitoring and evaluation, and assess physical literacy and resilience.

Provides tennis/life-skills outreach programming for primarily elementary school children at a variety of sites, including schools, centers, and neighborhoods. The AIM Adaptive Tennis program is geared to teens and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities and partners with Special Olympics Alachua. This program emphasizes physical activity, healthy lifestyles, and structured social interaction, and provides opportunities for competitive play through Special Olympics.
WHO DOES ACES IN MOTION SERVE?

In 2017, 830 youth received programming through the Aces in Motion program. We reached over 700 elementary school age children through our tennis/education outreach programming at 14 different sites, including low-income neighborhoods and Title 1 schools. Over 400 students from low-income families received free tennis/life-skills programming each week. Our AIM After-School Program continued to develop, with a focus on providing a strong academic and tennis programming for approximately 35 students in middle and high school. Through our no-fee programming, we overcome financial barriers to accessing quality after-school care. 2017 also marked the second year that our teen and adult adaptive tennis athletes competed at the local, area, and state levels in the Special Olympics.

The GACTA Middle School Tennis League completed its seventh season in spring, 2017, with nine schools and 160 players represented. This low-cost, no-cut program is sustainable because the hard costs are covered by a modest participation fee, and because our local private and public tennis facilities generously provide teaching pros for practices and courts for both practices and matches. In addition, the parent-coordinators provide a great deal of volunteer help. The participation fee also generates enough revenue to provide scholarships for students from low-income families, as well as supports the Aces in Motion program. For the second year, several tennis players who competed in the Special Olympics also participated in the middle school tennis practices and matches.
THE CHALLENGES

Gainesville and Alachua County are areas of contrasts. Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, one of the highest rated public universities in the country, and Santa Fe College, rated as the #1 community college in the nation. The county also has one of Florida’s most educated populations, with over 40% of its residents having attained a four-year college degree.

Yet, there is a wide divide in the county in terms of socio-economic, educational and health outcomes. One of three children in Alachua County is considered overweight or obese. Alachua County has median, household, and per capita incomes 20% below Florida averages. Nearly 25% of the residents of the county are estimated to be living in poverty, with an estimated 11,800 children between 0-18 years of living in poverty in 2012, up from 8500 in 2008-2009 (Kids Count Data Center). Gainesville also has one of the largest income gaps in the nation. In Alachua County, 70% of black households are below the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) threshold vs. 39% of white households.

There are many disparities in terms of educational outcomes between white and black students in the county that the AIM After-School Program is addressing. For example:

- Alachua County has the widest achievement gap between white and black students of all the school districts in Florida on standardized tests, and the county’s black students perform in the lowest quartile to lowest third, compared to black students in other school districts in Florida.
- Black students in Alachua County were 5 times as likely to receive an out-of-school suspension compared to white students, which was almost double the state average.
- White students in Alachua County were 5.7 times more likely to be enrolled in an academic magnet program compared to black students.
- District-wide, 75% of black 8th grade students are NOT reading at grade level, vs. 27% of white students.
- Only six of 10 black male students graduate on time from high school.

For black students living in segregated, low-income neighborhoods in Alachua County, the playing field is definitely not even close to level, and there are many economic, educational, and cultural challenges to overcome to achieve success in career/college after high school. The Aces in Motion After-School Program is a longitudinal program works to even the playing field by providing high-quality programming, the majority of which now takes place on the UF campus.
This program is an exciting new collaboration between the Dept. of Tourism, Recreation and Sports Management in the College of Health and Human Performance and Aces in Motion that began in January 2017. Over the course of the year, the GIM after-school program expanded from two to four days per week. The program is based at the Florida Gym. Middle and High School GIM students participated in a variety of enrichment activities, including a sports sampling curriculum, insider tours of many athletic facilities, and college exposure field trips. Students also benefit from 1:1 tutoring and homework help from UF students.
May 2017: Special Olympics State Games

May 2017 AIM Awards Program

Unity in the Community: International Day of Peace
Festival at Majestic Oaks November 2017

AIM staff Cultural Competency Workshop
AIM field trip to Hidden Figures Spring ’17
Annual End of School Trip to St. Augustine

Zen Vibe Yoga
AIM Players @ JETA - Summer 2017
On the La Chua Trail

Career Discoveries Day at Buchholz High 11/17
Holly Heights Halloween Celebration October 2017

Festival at Majestic Oaks November 2017
Aces in Motion partnered with the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding, Gainesville Police Department and Alachua County Sheriff’s Office to develop an on-court curriculum to promote police/youth dialogues.

GACTA Volunteer Appreciation Day & Community Clinic: 300 Club 12/2017
AIM Family Dinners and Parent Meetings

Parent education/engagement is an important component of the AIM after-school program. Mandatory parent meetings are held 4X per year, and the AIM Academic Director works closely with many of the AIM students’ teachers and attends parent-teacher conferences if required. In spring 2017, an AIM Parent Advisory Committee was formed.
Emaney, 5th grade

I like AIM because it change my life. Because it help me with my homework and take me on field trips...the best place I ever came to in my life.

Carlisha, 7th grade

I like Aces in Motion because they change my life to a good life and they taught me how to bring my grades up. They are some good people.

Camyrn, 9th grade

I love AIM because it gives kids a chance to learn a new sport. AIM also helps with homework because they see we have the potential to enter college just like Kajen Monroe...I LOVE AIM!

Va’Shayla, 8th grade

What I like about Aces in Motion is that they help you with your work. If I didn’t have AIM, I would be bad and running away from home every day.
AIM STUDENT PROFILE: Kajen Monroe

Kajen Monroe is the first Aces in Motion student to graduate from high school. She was one of a very small group of original members of the Aces in Motion program, starting the program at Howard Bishop Middle School in 2012, and was a part of the first Middle School Tennis team at the school. She was accepted to the Entrepreneurship magnet program at Buchholz High School, played J-V High School Tennis, and dual-enrolled at Santa Fe College as a junior. She worked as a volunteer AIM Coach in Training and progressed to become an excellent paid coach and mentor to the younger students. She graduated from Buchholz in June, 2017, and enrolled at Florida A&M University in the pre-nursing program. She was the recipient of a $10,000 college scholarship from the USTA Foundation, which is awarded to high-achieving students from NJTL chapters.

“My favorite thing about this program is that it gives you hope and reassurance of your dreams. We learn how to be realistic, yet shoot for the highest star in the sky. Academically, financially, and emotionally, this program is what students need, and the best part about it, Aces in Motion is willing to help as many students possible to get to where I am today.”

-Kajen Monroe, August 2017
GACTA BY THE NUMBERS
Financials for January 1st, 2017 - December 31st, 2017

2017 GACTA REVENUE BREAKDOWN

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2017 GACTA EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

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THANK YOU TO

Corporate Sponsors
- Kevin Banes, REALTOR®
- Bosshardt Realty Services, Inc.
- Campus Credit Union
- Renasant Bank
- UF Dept. of TRSM
- Martin Kids Dental Health Team
- Circulatory Services, Inc.
- First Magnitude Brewing Co.
- Lucky’s Supermarket

Major Funders of GACTA
- USTA Foundation
- United Way of NCFL
- Alachua County (CAPP)
- Manatee Community Foundation
- GiveGab (Amazing Give)
- Bosshardt Realty Services, Inc.
- USTA Florida Section Foundation

Note: 2017’s total expense numbers were larger than income largely due to the purchasing of two vans to expand our After-School Program and invest in our future.
GACTA AFFILIATIONS

- USTA Foundation NJTL Capacity Building Program: 2015-2017 (successfully completed the three-year program)
- United Way North Central Florida Impact Partner-2015-Present
- Alachua County Community Agency Partnership Program (CAPP): 2017-Present
- University of Florida Campaign for Charities- 2016 – Present, Agency member
- Community Foundation Center for Non-Profit Excellence- Member Organization
- Up2Us- Member Organization and Certified Coach Training (Addison Staples). Up2Us is the nationwide leader in sport-based youth development and trauma-informed coaching.
- USTA: Member Organization

GACTA’s 2017 PARTNERSHIP LIST

The City of Gainesville Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs — Aces in Motion After-School Program is provided in-kind use of four tennis courts and the T.B. McPherson Recreation Center for AIM after-school programming.

Gainesville Police Department — Elementary and middle school students in the GPD’s Reichert House after-school program for at-risk boys attend weekly AIM sessions. During fall, 2017, GPD law enforcement officers worked with AIM and River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding to create a sports-based curriculum that facilitates youth dialogue with law enforcement.

The 21st CCLC program — Eight under-performing elementary and middle schools’ after-school programs were served by AIM programming.

Boulware Springs Charter School: All 140 elementary school children received life-skills instruction from AIM staff, as a major part of their PE program.

I AM STEM: We are partnering with “I am STEM” summer school program at Caring and Sharing Charter School to provide tennis/life-skills programming for 90 participants.

Kids Count: Participants in Kids’ County, an after-school tutoring program for elementary school students, receive AIM programming once a week at two different sites.

Pineridge communities: Children living in these low-income, high-crime neighborhoods receive tennis/life-skills instruction once per week.

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding: We work with this non-profit for training in restorative justice and conflict resolution, and collaborate with them in designing sports-based programs that promote productive dialogue between kids and law enforcement.

Special Olympics Alachua: In 2017, the Special Olympics tennis competition was held in Alachua County and a group of athletes competed successfully at the State Special Olympics Summer Games at ESPN Wide World of Sports.

Train Up First: We work with this Florida-based organization and use their academic planners and other curricula in our after-school program.
UF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities: This group provides free training for our staff and volunteers on how best to work with people with disabilities and assists in the evaluation of behavioral issues in our after-school program at T.B. McPherson.

UF CROP (College Reach Out Program): T.B. McPherson Center is a CROP site during the 2016-2017 school year.

UF Department of Families, Youth, and Community Services: GIM provides internship opportunities, faculty collaboration

The University of Florida Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sports Management provides expert assistance in designing monitoring and evaluation criteria for our programming. Beginning in January 2017, Aces in Motion and the Department of Tourism entered into a partnership to create a “Gators in Motion“ after-school program on the UF Campus and provides the program in-kind space at the Florida Gym. **We feel this program is the future of AIM.**

UF Men’s Tennis: Players from the UF Men’s Varsity Tennis team come out on regular, rotating basis to work with the low-income youth in our after-school program. Coach Bryan Shelton headlines the AIM fundraiser in August.

UF Volunteer Clubs/Service Organizations: Gator Civitan, Gator Pals, Alpha Kappa Psi, UF Men’s Lacrosse, Alpha Epsilon Delta, UF Club Tennis, and a number of other UF clubs. Members of these organizations provide volunteer tennis instruction/life-skills instruction at various sites where AIM programming is provided, as well as tutoring services and general assistance to the program.

Unity Family Community Center, Inc.: Provides after-school programming in the area of life-skills and sex education

Up2Us: This organization provides instructor training in Sports-Based Youth Development and also provides opportunities to host Coach Across America Coaches.
A sincere thank you to all the individuals and UF sports clubs and service organizations who provided generous contributions of volunteer hours and in-kind and monetary donations to the Aces in Motion program in 2017. Volunteers from the community and the University of Florida truly make our program possible. In 2017, approximately 145 volunteers assisted the AIM program in a variety of ways, from providing graphic design services to homework help/tutoring and on-court tennis instruction.

A special thank you to the following individuals for their dedicated service to the AIM program:

- Lori Farkash
- Larry Leshan
- Renny and Fred Meister
- Elizabeth Patterson
- Mark and Nancy Staples
- Bobbie Mehan
- So-Mei Louie
- Sue Benton
- The Kawaja Family
- Pam Kelly
- Cassie Sports
- Mike Oransky
- Kim Horner
- Marcia Staples
Fourth Annual Bryan Shelton AIM for the Stars Gala
Get Involved!

**Volunteer:** Come out to any of our sites and make a difference in a child’s life. Volunteer options include on-court assistance, homework help, mentoring, career guidance, and speaking engagements. We have formed a Special Olympics and adaptive tennis program, so if you have any interest in working with people with disabilities, please let us know.

**Contributions can also be designated for the following Aces in Motion funds:**
- Dr. John J. Ross Pre-Collegiate Scholarship Fund: Academic support
- Julie E. Best Memorial Tennis Fund: Adaptive Tennis program
- Chris McDonald Tennis Scholarship Fund
- The John McFetridge Technology Fund

Follow us on Facebook at [Gainesville Tennis](http://www.gainesvilletennis.org) and [Aces in Motion](http://www.acesinmotion.org), on Twitter [@acesinmotion](http://www.acesinmotion.org), and Instagram, [acesinmotion](http://www.acesinmotion.org).

Supported by the Alachua County Board of County Commission’s Community Agency Partnership Program.

For more information, please contact:
**Addison Staples, Executive Director, GACTA**
Addison@acesinmotion.org 352-514-9975

**Make a Contribution:**
Go to either one of our websites:
[www.gainesvilletennis.org](http://www.gainesvilletennis.org) or [www.acesinmotion.org](http://www.acesinmotion.org) and click “DONATE” on the lop of the screen.
OR mail a check made out to GACTA or Aces in Motion to:
[**Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association, Inc.**](http://www.gainesvilletennis.org)
PO. Box 357492
Gainesville, FL 32635

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