Andrus

Andrus hosts paddle and tennis celebrities, including Andrus family member, Lindsay Davenport.

Coming Together in a Democratic Society: How we can come together, work across differences, and contribute to a more just & equitable democratic society.
From your multiple perspectives (personal, as CEO of ANDRUS, and other activities), can you share an experience(s) about how you're helping to bring together people with a diversity of backgrounds and/or beliefs? Use pop tennis event as a way to illustrate.

On August 25, 2022 Andrus celebrated the official grand-opening of our new POP Tennis courts with a star-studded ribbon cutting ceremony. We knew we wanted to bring together a diverse, invested mix of organizations and individuals to help launch our newest recreational therapy element, POP Tennis at Andrus. Table Tennis Pro Wally Green, Tennis Pro Todd Paul, Former USTA President and Tennis Pro Katrina Adams, and Andrus family member, four-time #1 world Champ Lindsay Davenport were all on-hand to support the children at this unique event.

POP Tennis is a natural fit for Andrus. The shorter racquet, lower density ball and shorter net make for slower and easier play. Children have the opportunity to be instantly successful at the game; building confidence, having fun, making connections with peers and empowering them to find fulfillment in athletic endeavors. Children are able be adventurous and try new things while feeling supported and capable of their ability to succeed.

It is critical to our culture that we bring together people with a diversity of backgrounds and beliefs to Andrus to enrich the community and meaningfully connect as a group. Sports transcend cultural differences and bring people together, as players and spectators. The positive impact sports have on individuals and communities make it a perfect tool to illustrate the inclusion and belonging children feel when they play. We are grateful to the athletes that modeled these traits to our students, and also to our partners for this undertaking: USTA and POP Tennis are valued for the advocacy and outreach they each do to engage youth and the emphasis they place on the lifetime of enjoying paddle and racquet sports.

We know POP Tennis will give our students another outlet for physical education, and we expect associated therapeutic benefits will be gained, such as teaching children teamwork, accountability and dedication. We saw many examples of this while watching the children engage with the pros. Students asking questions, advocating for themselves and sharing ideas with each other. It was an unforgettable experience for the children who got to be the focus of the attention and expertise. Along with hands-on lessons, offering tips and techniques, and taking endless selfies with the children, the pros generously acted as role models for hard work, dedication and success, enriching the experience for all participants.

Everyone took their own paths to get to this singular event. We came together with a wealth of experience from all walks of life. The children at Andrus saw different perspectives, learned unfamiliar skills, and met new heroes. The staff at Andrus made and renewed connections with each other. Cooperation and consensus were reached by a coalition of non-profit organizations: Pop Tennis, USTA, and Andrus. Most importantly was what we were able to accomplish together for the agency, 2 new Pop Tennis courts, the benefits they will add to the lives of the children here, and how we added to the Andrus legacy of inclusion and building for the future.