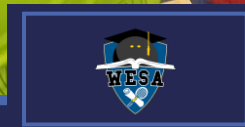


# Washington Education & Squash Academy Newsletter



Issue 14 | January 2022 | 2021 Financials

## Welcome

Here we are again, rounding the corner of another year with a familiar but new set of challenges. While we know that the coming year will include new obstacles, we are also looking ahead to what we are sure will be a year full of growth, excitement, and new adventures! As we keep our fingers crossed and begin to plan for more travel to tournaments, our students are working hard in the classroom and on court so that we can bring home more trophies in 2022.

This fall brought with it seven new students to WESA and we could not be happier to welcome them and their families into the WESA community. Welcome to Luis, Jonathan, Jamie, Ashley, Frank, Ellie, and Haven! We are eager to see the growth that this year will foster and learn more about all that you bring with you to WESA!

## Inside This Issue

### PG. 2

2021 Bright Moments & The Knockabout

### PG. 3

2021 Financials

### PG. 4

Donor Spotlight & Volunteering at WESA

### PG. 5

Friends of WESA 2020 – *Thank you for making our programming possible!*

## 2021 Bright Moments!

In looking back at this past year, we have many moments to celebrate and are excited to share them with you.

### Renewed Competition

This fall, we finally had the opportunity to travel to another tournament! We took necessary precautions and felt lucky to be able to travel to compete once again. We brought three of our oldest students, individuals who have been working their hardest throughout this pandemic despite all of the challenges. They all played strong matches, and Elliot even brought home a medal!

### STEM @ WESA

Thanks to a generous grant from the Baker Foundation, WESA students have had the opportunity for hands on engineering, design, and science projects at WESA this fall. From building their own electric pencil sharpener to creating a spinning art machine, WESA scholars have been hard at work. Thank you, Baker Foundation!

### WESA's First Holiday Party

Thanks to Coach Tiffany, WESA had its first holiday party. While indoor size limitations meant that we were not able to invite families as we had hoped, our holiday parties were fun-filled and action packed! We played dreidel, decorated ornaments and cookies, and wrote holiday cards to loved ones.

### Building Larger Cohorts

This year we have our largest cohorts in our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, with a strong 3<sup>rd</sup> grade cohort growing behind them. This structure is intentional as we continue to form our foundation, building blocks for the next stage at WESA. In the years ahead, WESA looks to serve 100+ students and we look forward to bringing you more information about how we will get there during this upcoming year.



Alexander, Elliot, and Bryan at the LA Squash Academy Tournament in South Pasadena, CA (left). Elliot pictured with his bronze medal for BU15 (right)!

### Tiffany!

Easily one of the best things that happened to WESA in 2021 was having Tiffany Cervantes join our team. Tiffany took the bold leap to move across the country amidst a global pandemic to start what we hope will be a long and fruitful journey at WESA. Since joining WESA in July, Tiffany has spent time getting to know WESA's programming in order to provide continuity for our students, while also using her personal experience and expertise to bring new ideas and innovative practice plans to WESA's operations.

## The Knockabout

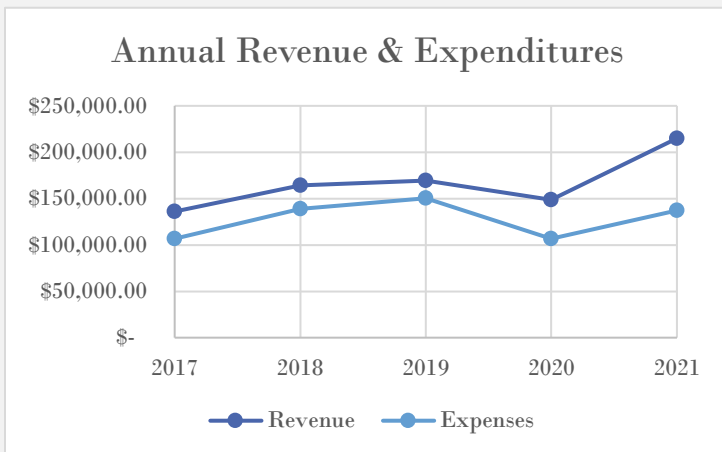
As you know, WESA now has a single fundraising event each year called the Knockabout. The Knockabout is three-fold in its competition. Firstly, we have an **on-court battle** for those who are squash-inclined. Secondly, we have a **virtual trivia competition** for those who love WESA but haven't yet tried their luck on the court; the pandemic also taught us what a great opportunity this is for our out-of-state supporters to still be able to partake in the fun! The trivia champs give their squash counterparts a leg up in the competition for the Knockabout Champions Cup. And lastly, we have the... [drum roll please] **fundraising competition**. Using a crowdfunding model, Knockabout team members raise money within their networks to help sustain WESA year after year. The winners of this competition claim the Knockabout Sustainers Cup. Our four teams are gearing up for another exhilarating competition and we are always looking for eager Knockabouts to join us! We look forward to being in touch with you in the months ahead about how to get involved. Keep your fingers crossed for an indoor competition and celebration this year!

## 2021 Financials

Thank you. There is no other way to begin talking about our 2021 financials other than by saying a huge Thank You to all of our donors. Each of your gifts combined allowed us to have our most successful financial year yet. This fiscal growth in conjunction with some decreased expenses (because of the current circumstances with the pandemic), has allowed us to create a greater layer of financial security for the organization. We know that the past few years have been challenging for many and we cannot express how grateful we are for choice to continue to support WESA.

Since March 2020, we have continued to refine our practices and adjust our protocols as necessary. We - staff, families, and students, have learned how to adapt and move between various schedules as safety requires. Having the resources to adapt is something that can often be taken for granted, but at WESA we feel the gratitude daily. Your support has allowed us to purchase rapid COVID tests, provide engaging online academic content, and switch into our regular programming each time health and safety allow for it.

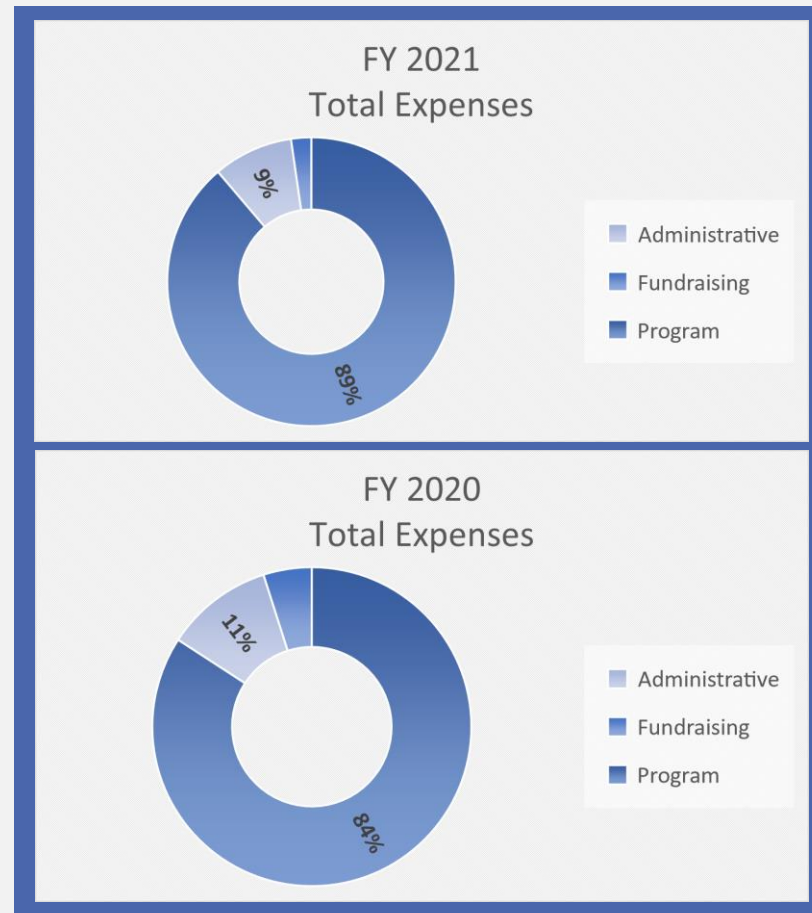
As more of our students make their way through high school and begin to plan for college, our programming will continue to expand to fit our students' needs. As you know, with any program

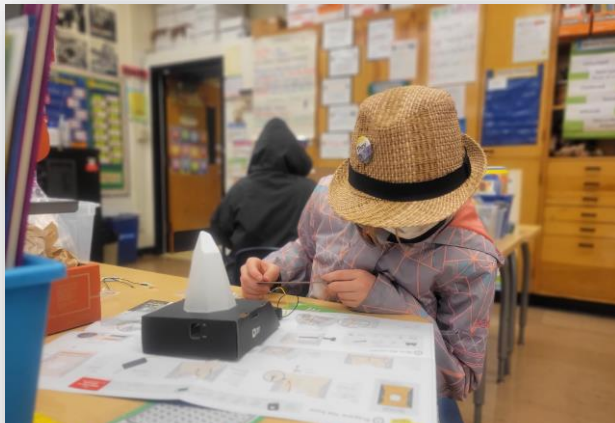


expansion comes increased costs and we thank you for helping us make this transition seamlessly, providing the needed support and resources to our scholars.

## Our Students Are Our Priority

Another year, another example of cutting back on the percentage of funds used for administration and fundraising, as compared to programming. Our students always come first and we do our best to reflect this value in our budget. While there will always be necessary expenses outside of programming in order to keep our program running smoothly and efficiently, we believe that the large majority of dollars spent should be in areas that *directly* impact our students. In 2021, 89% of the operating budget was spent on programming, a 5% increase from 2020. At some point in time the tipping point will come when increasing these margins becomes too difficult, but until then we will continue to decrease the portion of our budget that is spent on administrative and fundraising needs.





Ellie hard at work creating a color-mixing LED crystal lamp. They had to wire circuits and troubleshoot as problems arose.

## Thank you, Oliver!

This winter we would like to thank Oliver Chen for his ongoing commitment to WESA. Oliver is a local high school student and volunteer tutor. Oliver has led numerous online tutoring sessions for our elementary school students throughout the year. Oliver's patience and flexibility as WESA adapts its schedule to meet the needs of our students has been paramount. Thank you, Oliver, for your dedication and support.

## Volunteer at WESA



### Academic Tutoring

*WESA has academic programming M-F.*



### Fitness Coaching (Virtual)

*When we are in a virtual or hybrid mode, there are opportunities for leading online fitness sessions.*



### Squash Volunteering (In Person)

*Our athletic priority is to have our students on court, but health and safety will always come first.*

2:1

### Squash Coaching (In Person)

*Flexible hours around your and your students' schedules.*

WESAacademy.org/volunteer

*COVID-19 has kept our schedule in flux. Please reach out for our most up-to-date schedule.*

## Seeking Committee Members!

WESA is seeking community members who are passionate about education and/or squash to join our working committees. These committees join our Boards' members and our staff as the backbone to the organization. Interested in helping WESA through a hands-on approach? Contact [Kate Frost](#) about joining one of our committees (listed below):

- ❖ Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
- ❖ Events
- ❖ Facilities
- ❖ Finance\*
- ❖ Fundraising & Board Development
- ❖ Human Resources\*
- ❖ Program Development
- ❖ Squash

## Donor Spotlight – Jamie Osborne

Jamie is a long-time donor and supporter of WESA's mission. When asked why he continues to give to WESA year after year, Mr. Osborne replied,

"I've supported WESA for the last six years or so because I believe in the outreach to those living in our urban communities. Engaging youth and teaching them life skills through sport is a great way to provide opportunities they may not otherwise have. I wholly support the premise of combining sport and education. My history with squash goes back to 1982 when the SAC had two 18 ft hardball courts and have been passionate about the sport ever since. Although I haven't been able to play since 2007 (injury) the benefits are universal – competition, community, sportsmanship, athleticism, fitness, leadership, self-esteem and much more. Giving these kids an opportunity to learn and develop these life skills they might not otherwise have is the reason I support WESA. It is making a positive difference in people's lives."

Thank you for your support and commitment, Jamie!

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments at [info@WESAacademy.org](mailto:info@WESAacademy.org). We love hearing from you!



Washington Education & Squash Academy



@W\_E\_S\_A



wa\_es\_academy



## *Friends of WESA 2021*

### **Advocate's Circle (\$2000+)**

---

Tony & Robin Armour  
Lulu Chou & Alvaro Collet  
Karim Ders  
Naveen Garg & Anne-Marie Canis  
Gustavo Gutierrez Gomez  
#HalfMyDAF  
Callahan Jacobs  
Meredith Lehr & Bill Severson  
Mark Leonard  
Ali Piyarali  
Sherif Sweha  
Wibe Wagemans

### **Supporter's Circle (\$1000+)**

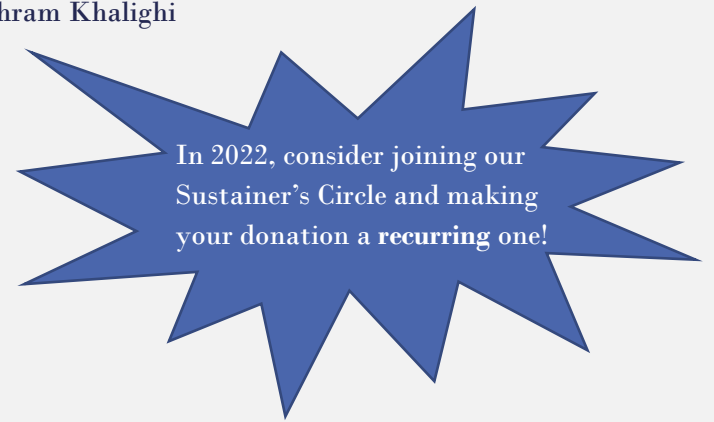
---

Albert Brown  
Maureen & Richard Cantlin  
Nicol David  
Davis, Wright, Tremaine  
Martha & Rainer Frost  
Eric Henke  
Bruce Johnson  
Marta Johnson & Johann Rocholl  
Sharam Khalghi  
Matthew LaCasse  
Peter Langmaid  
Doug Lind  
Vandana Nandan  
Siddhartha Padgaonkar  
Seattle Squash Racquets Association  
Brooke Wallace

### **Sustainer's Circle (Monthly/Quarterly)**

---

Rebecca Leong  
Shahram Khalighi



### ***President's Circle (\$5000+)***

---

Anonymous  
The Baker Foundation  
Alan Cantlin  
The Elkin Family  
Pam Hawes & Jack Hunden  
The Henderson Foundation  
Dar Khalighi  
Bill Loughrin  
Michelle Quibell