

SOURCE Champions of the Month
June 2018



From left to right: Chelsea Amburgey and David Tkach

Community Outreach Program – SquashWise

SquashWise is a long-term support system creating opportunities for aspiring Baltimore youth. By using squash as a motivator, we help students realize their academic, athletic and personal potential. We ensure that each student graduates from high school prepared for their next step – ready to excel in college and continuing education, as well as in the workplace. We use a goal-oriented approach to match students to post-high school education and career placements that fit their readiness and interests. Students join the SquashWise family in middle school, and we continue supporting them as they achieve their educational, athletic, and career goals.

At SquashWise, while our official title is listed as that of a College Readiness Mentor, the actual role encompasses many different skills. They range from academic tutoring to simply being a compassionate listener to an occasional partner on the squash court. A typical day would involve getting paired up with a student or two and focusing on their academic needs for the day, be it studying for a biology quiz or preparing a speech to give in front of the school board. As we've gotten to know the students, great relationships have been built where these conversations become deeper and we can learn what the student's future plans are and how we can help them achieve these.

One of the best experiences we've had is a day where the students taught us how to play squash. Neither of us knew anything about the game so it was a great to finally be able to learn the game that our organization was named after! It was also really cool to have the roles reversed by having the students teach us for a change. We enjoyed playing and you could tell they loved being the teachers!

Meet the Volunteers: Chelsea Amburgey and David Tkach

David Tkach: I'm a 4th Semester MEN student from San Francisco. My original degrees are in finance and math (so pretty much used to avoid science classes at all costs). I'm interested in psych nursing after graduation and helping improve the stigma that is often associated with mental health disorders.

Chelsea Amburgey: My name is Chelsea Amburgey, I am a second semester nursing student with a goal to enter in to pediatric nursing upon graduating. I enjoy working with children because they have such different perspectives on life and will surprise you at every corner. I also like being able to support them in their journey to adulthood. I grew up in Kentucky and my first degree was in accounting. I have known for a while I would end up as a nurse, I just didn't want to admit it to my family full of nurses that they were right.



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