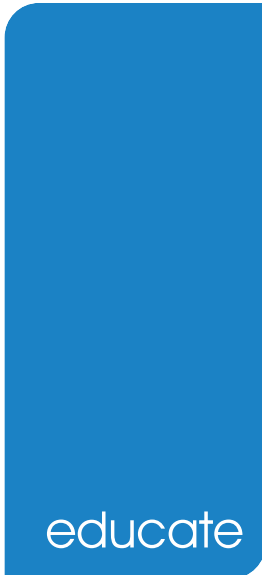
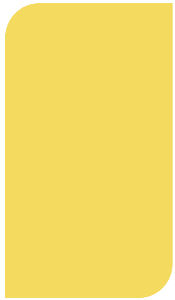




# DANBURY GRASSROOTS ACADEMY

EDUCATION - CHARACTER - TENNIS - HEALTH



Improving the lives of promising, select students in Danbury by emphasizing education, character, tennis, and health.



I am **smart**, I am **strong**, I am **determined**,  
I have **dreams**, and I **matter**.  
I will make a **difference**.

**Our vision is to promote positive and productive life choices for a designated number of at-risk Danbury students through mentoring and self-empowerment.**

We strive to help each student develop tools for making educated choices in our four prongs of: education, character, tennis, and health. We expect our students to strive for success in each of those areas.



### Profile of a Danbury Grassroots Academy Student

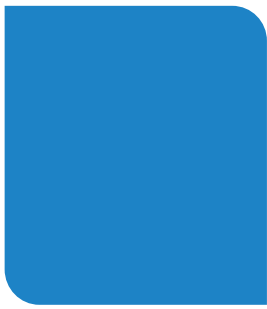
#### A DGA student is:

- Appreciative of the resources and opportunities DGA offers
- Capable of maximizing potential
- Willing to work to develop that potential
- Able to understand and to pursue the “American Dream”

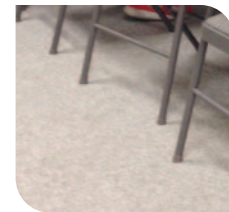
### Profile of a Danbury Grassroots Academy Parent

#### A DGA parent is:

- Appreciative of the resources and opportunities DGA offers
- An active and willing participant in DGA program requirements
- An advocate for her/his child
- A regular communicator with DGA
- Able to understand and to pursue the “American Dream”



# success character



## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

### Education:

- Improve grade point average by providing a comprehensive afterschool and summer program
- Establish a student/parent/school liaison
- Graduate from High School
- Develop post High School educational or career goals

### Character:

- Identify personal strengths
- Create an action plan to maximize potential
- Improve critical life skills to include: self-esteem, citizenship, leadership, communication, and goal setting

### Tennis:

- Participate in lessons and play in matches
- Compete on High School tennis teams
- Display respect for the sport through responsibility and integrity

### Health:

- Incorporate healthy eating habits in daily food choices
- Understand healthy lifestyles as a critical component of good health

## REQUIREMENTS/CRITERIA

- Danbury resident
- Ages 8-18
- Income eligibility requirements
- A serious contractual commitment by both their child and their parent/guardian which is necessary to achieve the maximum benefits of our program



## Our Mission

**Danbury Grassroots Academy** began in 2006 and is a free, year-round program serving 50 at-risk students between the ages of 8 and 18. Our mission is to improve the lives of promising, selected students in Danbury emphasizing education, character, tennis, and health. We provide our students with a disciplined and nurturing environment for mentoring, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and building self-esteem. The program operates at our 2,500 square foot Main Street office and on Danbury's public tennis courts at Rogers Park. During the winter our highest achieving participants also qualify to play indoor tennis two to three days a week. We have two full time employees, Lauren Dalton (Executive Director) and Lynn Radford (Director of Education), and one part-time summer tennis professional. In addition, there are over 40 active, year-round volunteer tutors and tennis pros comprised of National Honor Society students from local high schools, former teachers, WCSU students, and local residents.

We have three primary goals: to stress the critical importance of education; to emphasize the value of nutrition and exercise; and to teach the basics of tennis to our children. Specific and long-term objectives are to improve report card grades, DRA reading levels, high school graduation rates and establish career paths or college education.

## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

- In 2014, Director, Lauren Dalton, was awarded the Danbury Area Mentor of the Year Award from W.C.S.U. for her outstanding work in mentoring area youth through both tennis and tutoring
- The 2014 top 3 finalist for the USTA Serves National Program of the Year Award
- The 2012 USTA NJTL Program of the Year for New England
- The 2011 Linda Newby Professional Service Award for contribution and commitment to the children and families of the Danbury community
- In 2007, Carl Bailey, Founder and President, received the USTA Connecticut Program of the Year Award

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- To date, all of our students have achieved a 100% high school graduation rate
- Over 80% of our students in the program for two years or more improve their GPA
- Homework completion level and study habits drastically improve during a student's first semester in the program
- All of our participants have gone on to attend college or begin a career
- The Danbury Public Schools named 15 of our students recipients of the Student of the Month Award or People Respecting Others Award
- Through the DGA, five participants received scholarships to attend Immaculate High School
- Since 2006, over 20 participants have played Varsity High School tennis at Danbury High School, Abbott Tech, Immaculate High School, and Wooster School
- After one year in the program, all of our students show significant improvement with work habits, social skills, self-esteem, leadership skills, academic performance, and school attendance
- The majority of our students boost reading levels by one level over the summer and by one or more levels during the school year
- Our students realize significant advances in math performance and an overall increase in standardized math test scores
- The DGA promotes general health, fitness, and wellness by keeping our students active, fostering the importance of healthy behaviors, and providing healthy snacks. This leads to a reduction in body mass index and improved self-esteem

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Bailey,  
*President*

Walter Beatty,  
*Vice President*

Mike Smith,  
*Treasurer/Secretary*

Lauren Dalton,  
*Executive Director*

Lynn Radford,  
*Director of Education*

Sandra Atanasoff

Kathleen Brown

Georgia Carrington

Arthur Goldblatt

Pam Higgins

Robert Lapple

Paul Masters

Dr. David Pazer

Cathy Perry

Liz Preville

Becky Strominger