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#triangletennisforequality

USTA NORTH CAROLINA

THE NEED FOR INCLUSION ON THE TENNIS COURT

Leads to Creation of Local Group

After watching a viral social media video, Traci McCluney was inspired to make tennis more inclusive across the Triangle Area of North Carolina.

In late May, tennis pro Frances Tiafoe published a video which highlighted a number of minority players, coaches, former players, as well as current and former administrators in the game of tennis. The video, known as "Racquets Down, Hands Up" was a silent tribute to the many victims of racially-charged violence against African-Americans.

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"After a mass email to every minority tennis player I knew, I realized two things: we are a very small population of players in relation to the larger tennis population, and many of us were struggling with a way to show support in today's climate," Traci said. "We decided to spread Tiafoe's message and re-create a video of our own."

The video, published by Triangle Tennis for Equality, received outpouring support from the tennis community. Traci's idea turned into a team of people who are eager to promote the game of tennis, remove barriers, and respect people of all backgrounds.

Since publishing the video project, Triangle Tennis for Equality has created a formal mission:

Triangle Tennis for Equality promotes inclusion and equal opportunity within the NC Triangle tennis community for players of all ethnicities, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, and age. Through fundraising and outreach, we aim to facilitate the success of other charitable organizations and individuals that provide equal opportunities within the sport of tennis.

"We are thrilled to have caught the attention of so many, and we plan to make a difference - no matter how small or large - to bring diversity to the sport," Traci said. "We respect what CTAs are doing and we want to be a conduit to help them promote their programming. Triangle Tennis for Equality is specifically focused on diversifying the sport across many categories: age, race, sex, socio-economic background, etc."

Triangle Tennis for Equality is hoping to increase minority participation, engage the LGBTQ+ community, and reach underserved populations.

Learn more about the impact Triangle Tennis for Equality is making by connecting with them on Facebook at facebook.com/tennisforequality.