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**First Serve Leaders from Eight Florida Sites Attend Inaugural First Serve Life Skills Curriculum Training**

9/28/04 6:06 PM



First Serve Leaders were thrilled to be at the training!

On September 17th and 18th, fifty First Serve leaders from across the country gathered in Key Biscayne for two days of intensive training on the "First Serve Life Skills Curriculum." First Serve, Inc, hosted this impressive training, under the leadership of Executive Director Trey Buchholz, in an effort to ensure that all First Serve sites leaders are well trained to deliver the curriculum. This curriculum not only introduces young people to the game of tennis, but also helps them develop specific skills that will help them succeed in all areas of their lives. The First Serve mission is "To empower young people by providing local tennis facilities and schools with a life skills program that promotes positive values, healthy habits, and education through the game of tennis - resulting in 'real life power' on and off the court."

First Serve Leaders from eight sites in Florida listened, learned and participated in all activities led by Peter Ryan, Ph.D., and the principal consultant for the First Serve Curriculum. USA Tennis Florida commends the following sites and leaders for their participation and willingness to learn:

- City of Ft. Lauderdale - First Serve Ft. Lauderdale represented by Whitney Kraft and Andre Braziel
- Denton Johnson Tennis Center - First Serve Eatonville represented by Tina Waters and Kevin Barnes
- Lee County CTA -First Serve Lee County represented by Kathy Cahill and Ivory Scott
- Greater Miami Tennis Foundation - First Serve Miami represented by Kim Sands, Robert Beaelus, and Barbara Hardemon

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- Malivai Washington Kids Foundation -First Serve Jacksonville represented by Terri Florio and Tia Mackey
- Palm Beach Area Tennis Patrons Foundation - First Serve Palm Beach represented by Henry Guignet
- Tallahassee Tennis Association - First Serve Tallahassee represented by Anne Davis
- Tennis Foundation of St. Petersburg - First Serve St. Pete represented by Jackie Keller and Rick Crockett



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USA Tennis Florida's Coordinator of Community Outreach/CTA Development, Linda Curtis, was very impressed with the passion and dedication that each of the Florida participants brought to the training. She further commends the staff of First Serve, Inc. and Facilitator Peter Ryan for the outstanding two-day training. Curtis stated that, "USA Tennis Florida is encouraged and excited about the future of First Serve in our state. We continue to look positively to the future of the program and to our association with everyone on the First Serve, Inc. staff. The best is yet to come!"

For more information about First Serve in Florida, please contact Linda Curtis at 239-573-8879 or at [curtisL@florida.usta.com](mailto:curtisL@florida.usta.com) or the First Serve, Inc. office at 954-332-2429 or at [tbuchholz@firstserve.org](mailto:tbuchholz@firstserve.org).

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