

PORTLAND AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS & EDUCATION INC.



At St. Johns Racquet Center – 7519 N Burlington – Portland, OR 97006 - 503-697-0598

February 7, 2013

Sue Dutton
Director of Development
Portland Children's Museum
40015 SW Canyon Road
Portland, OR 97231

Dear Sue,

I was so excited when Tom Clarke told me that his firm Thomas Clarke Construction was submitting a bid to Portland Children's Museum for the "Outdoor Adventure" project. Not only because the "Outdoor Adventure" will be an incredible addition to your incredible facility, but also because Thomas Clarke Construction was instrumental in the renovation of several academic classrooms at Portland After-School Tennis & Education at St. Johns Racquet Center.

Portland After-School Tennis & Education at St. Johns Racquet Center (PAST&E) is a nonprofit whose mission is to create partnerships with families, schools, and volunteers to help at-risk K-12 students achieve academic and athletic success. We accomplish this through one-on-one academic tutoring, tennis lessons, a nutrition/fitness curriculum, parent education, and a "best in class" development program serving junior players who excel at tennis. Participants attend the program 640 hours during the school year and 389 hours in summer, receiving the support they need to succeed in school and beyond. Through our extended-learning, summer, and enrichment programs, we impacted the lives of more than 1,000 at-risk children and their families in 2012 and have served more than 7,000 over time.

In the last two years, all 17 of our high-school seniors not only graduated from school but are now attending four-year colleges. One even received a Gates Millennium Scholarship, worth nearly \$500,000, to pursue his education to the highest level. We have also received awards and endorsements from the USTA, City of Portland Commissioner Nick Fish, and schools and businesses for the high-impact services we deliver. PAST&E Executive Director was also recently named 2012 "Grassroots Tennis Champion of the Year" by Racquet Sports Industry magazine, a national award recognizing her outstanding work with at-risk communities.

And, when we had an opportunity to create a permanent program site for PAST&E at St. Johns Racquet Center, we were referred to Thomas Clarke Construction to help us figure out how to convert two under-used racquet ball courts into academic classrooms. Tom and his oldest son "Jeff" not only helped us with our renovations, but he became a strong advocate for our program. And, much to my delight, his youngest son "Alex" ended up being one of our most valued volunteers when he stepped up to help with the tutoring and tennis program.

I heartily recommend Thomas Clarke Construction. Whatever the project, Tom's dedication to craftsmanship is what sets them apart from other companies, and it allows them to undertake truly custom and unique projects. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions, or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Danice Brown'.

Danice Brown