



## 2010 JANET LAUER USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS ORGANIZER AWARD NOMINEE APPLICATION

### I. NOMINEE

Name Mike Murphy

### IV. Specific reasons nominee deserves to win the USTA Jr. Team Tennis Organizer Award (Use additional sheet if necessary).

Mike Murphy sees tennis as way to “give back” to the community. While Mike saw many young children *learning* tennis, it seemed that no one was *playing* tennis. He decided to use Jr. Team Tennis to give all players an opportunity for match play. In 2009, his first league started “small” with two divisions: 18 advanced and 14 intermediate. From these two divisions sprouted 6 teams, 52 players and lots of enthusiasm! The players developed new friendships in the team setting and had a great time in match play (a new experience for many in the 14 and under division). The league was also successful in sending a team from both divisions on to the Sectional playoffs.

In 2010, Mike added a Winter League. With the Winter League, he added an 18 intermediate division and his league grew to 12 teams and 88 players. Reading, PA has only one indoor facility, so unfortunately court availability limited the amount of teams and players. In the spring, Mike went back to outdoor courts and grew the league again. This time 14 teams and 114 players participated. These two leagues have generated 99 new USTA memberships!

What sets Mike apart from other coordinators is his commitment to the players and their families. Mike has been able to set the schedule so that all matches are played on the same day every week and EVERY match has a picnic atmosphere. Mike has secured a variety of sponsors for Jr. Team Tennis who supply pizza, hoagies, drinks and most recently a flower arrangement at every match. Banners surround the courts, tents sprout up for teams to rest between matches, Mike is there to answer questions and help with match play, and, I cannot forget, his famous “tennis ball” sugar cookies-baked by his fiancée for every match and every player! This atmosphere has given Mike’s league a community all of its own.

Not to be outdone, Mike has already started planning the 2011 Winter Set Point League. This time the one indoor club has allowed Mike use of all their courts for 4 ½ hours. Enough time and courts to continue growing!

Mike Murphy's CTA, Set Point Tennis Org, is responsible for several other tennis programs. Mike is the tournament director for 3 USTA sanctioned tournaments; a SR-L5, a SR-L6 and a DR-L7. Win or lose, players involved in Mike's tournaments will walk away with a custom designed T-shirt, and may also enjoy complimentary beverages and snacks. After attending both a QuickStart workshop and a Recreational Coaches workshop, Mike ran a QuickStart after-school program for the Greater Pottstown Tennis Association at The Hill School. This summer, Mike is teaching the QuickStart program for the Berks County Parks & Recreation Department. Mike often provides pro bono tennis lessons to children who could not otherwise afford them and even on vacation he set up a QuickStart net on the beach and enticed children out of the ocean to play tennis!

In addition to Mike's involvement in tennis, he works with inner city youth of Reading, PA in the PAL program. During the last two years, this program has touched the lives of over 150 inner-city youth. He hires community leaders such as policemen, doctors, and local politicians to speak with the children about making positive life choices.

Please mail completed applications to your **USTA Jr. Team Tennis Section Coordinator** by **August 31, 2010**.