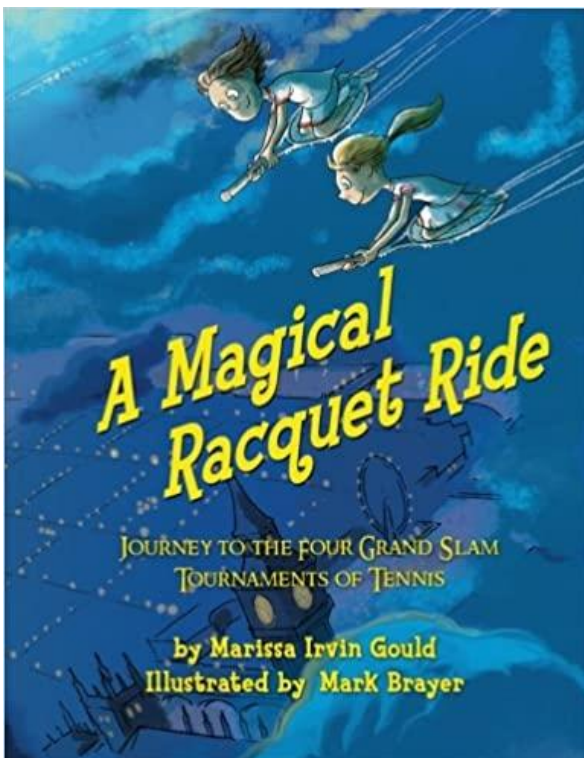




*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Former Tennis Professional Supports Racquets for Reading!!!

Charlottesville, Virginia (6/11/2021) – QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc. (QCV) is thrilled to report that our Racquets for Reading!!! Initiative has received a donation of books from Marissa Irvin Gould, author of *A Magical Racquet Ride: Journey to the Four Grand Slams of Tennis*. This award-winning book was written a few years ago by Gould, once ranked #1 in the country as a junior in both singles and doubles, a former tennis standout and scholar-athlete at Stanford University, four-time All-American and ranked as high as #51 in the world in professional Women's Tennis Association (WTA) competition. Gould was also the singles champion at the Women's Clay Court Championship tourney in Charlottesville back in 2004.



Gould says, "As a mom, former WTA pro and elementary school teacher, I'm a big advocate of reading and sports. A strong mind and a strong body often go hand in hand. There is a certain magic that can be found in the pages of a book and it is my hope that kids served by QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia will be inspired and encouraged by the words and pictures on the pages of *A Magical Racquet Ride* as they travel around the world and learn a little geography and a lot about tennis along the way! Thank you so much for reaching out to me -- I'm inspired by people like you and

your organization who are doing the work and making the world a better place by preparing the next generation with the power of sport, healthy eating and academics."

Lynda Harrill, QCV QuickStart Coordinator, adds, "Social media isn't always a happy place, but it definitely was when it led me to Marissa. QCV Board member Barbara Bozsik spotted the book and challenged me to track down the author. After a bit of searching, I found Marissa on Facebook and sent her a message. She was kind enough to respond and offer to send us some books. We have been looking for a 'tennis book' for young kids and we think we've finally found the right one. When I learned Marissa had gone from a very successful tennis career to teaching elementary school that's all I needed. It's so wonderful to meet other people who understand and support how impactful tennis and reading can be for kids."

Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about what QCV is doing to promote physical activity, healthy eating and early childhood literacy for preschoolers and kindergartners through our [Racquets for Reading!!!](#) initiative during COVID. More than 2,400 kids reached with more than 20,000 books!!!

*Want to be a great adult?
Play tennis! Read books! Eat healthy! Have FUN!!!
Be a QuickStart kid!*

QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia is an all-volunteer, grassroots Community Tennis Association established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to promote, develop and grow QuickStart Tennis in the heart of Virginia for all beginners, especially underserved youth, using the kid-sized QuickStart Tennis format. QCV's service area includes, Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Patrick Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Powhatan and Rappahannock counties and the cities of Charlottesville, Danville and Martinsville, plus under a special arrangement, King George County. We currently serve 212 schools with 99,000 kids, 15 parks & recreation departments, three Boys & Girls Clubs and two YMCAs in 27 counties and three independent cities. We have also gotten tennis into PE classes in 37 additional schools with 16,000 students in communities outside our service area.

Visit QCV at www.quickstartcentral.org and on [Facebook](#).

For additional information, contact quickstartcentral@comcast.net.



A racquet in every hand! A smile on every face!



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