



August 16-18, 2019



## By the Numbers

**384**

Participants in the Town Hall event to kick off tournament weekend

**90**

USTA players in the main tournament

**16**

Wheelchair players

**60**

Participants in the Rock & Rally Kids Day tennis clinic

**45**

Participants in the Adult Social Play event

**16**

Sponsors

**13**

Feature news stories about the tournament

**\$2,500.00**  
Tournament Purse

## Inaugural Charlotte Amateur Tennis Tournament a Success!

Game, set, match! The inaugural Charlotte Amateur Tennis Championship hit the Queen City August 16 – 18, and the first-time event was a huge success. Presented by Atrium Health, the event is a United States Tennis Association (USTA) event and all proceeds from the tournament went to benefit the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation. All events were held at the Queens University Tennis Complex at the Marion Diehl Recreation Center and the Jeff Adams Tennis Center.

The goal of bringing an event like this to the city of Charlotte was simple – to provide an opportunity for local tennis players to showcase their talent, and create a family-friendly environment that embraces and engages our local community. The tournament featured singles, doubles, mixed doubles, and wheelchair matches, in addition to a Rock & Rally Kids Day to teach children tennis fundamentals and a non-competitive Adult Social Play.

A huge thank you to our presenting sponsor, Atrium Health, as well as all of our other wonderful sponsors, for making this tournament weekend possible. We're already looking forward to next year's tournament in 2020!

Sincerely,

Malcolm Graham  
Tournament Director, Charlotte Amateur Tennis Tournament  
President, Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation

Presented by



Sponsored by



CYNTHIA GRAHAM HURD  
FOUNDATION  
FOR READING & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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# Tournament Events Schedule

## Community Conversation: “Guns: A Public Health Crisis”

Thursday, August 15

Tournament weekend kicked off with a town hall at Johnson C. Smith’s Biddle Memorial Hall to draw attention to the mounting issue of gun violence and the importance of addressing it as a public health crisis. Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action and author of “Fight Like a Mother” joined us as the speaker for this event, followed by a panel discussion with Charlotte-Mecklenburg community members and elected officials.

## Sponsors & Players Reception

Friday, August 16

Opening night of the Charlotte Amateur Tennis Championship kicked off with a warm welcome to the players and sponsors of the event. Festivities included a ceremonial first serve and plenty of opportunities to mingle.

## Food Lion Rock & Rally Kids Day & Adult Social Play

Saturday, August 16

This free clinic for kids (ages 6 through 18) centered around the fundamentals, skills, and (most important!) the fun of tennis. In addition, an Adult Social play was held for adults who wanted to play “for the fun of it” in a non-competitive environment. Participants were asked to bring gently-used books for children in grades K-3 to support the work of the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation, and school supplies were also collected to be donated to youth in Charlotte communities.

## Main Tournament Play

Saturday, August 16 & Sunday, August 17

We had plenty of action-packed play over the two days of the tournament from the 90 USTA participants as well as the 16 wheelchair tennis players! Matches included men’s and women’s singles and men’s, women’s, and mixed doubles.

## Championship Sunday

Sunday, August 17

The final day of the tournament began with a championship brunch, and ended with the crowning of our Rodgers Cup and other tournament winners.





## 2019 Champions

### Men's Open Finals

Jan Meyer

### Men's Singles 4.5

Philip Gibson

### Men's Singles 4.0

Wade Farrow

### Men's Singles 3.5

Taylor Brown

### Men's Singles 3.0

Jonathan Gross

### Men's Doubles Final

Evgeny Slesarev & Tanner Haddon

### Men's Doubles 4.0

Lance King & Dennis Scottbey

### Mixed Doubles Final

Spencer Cochran & Parks Thompson

### Women's Open Finals

Jenna Thompson

### Women's Singles 4.0

Spencer Cochran

### Women's Singles 3.0

Allecia Butler

### Women's Doubles 3.0

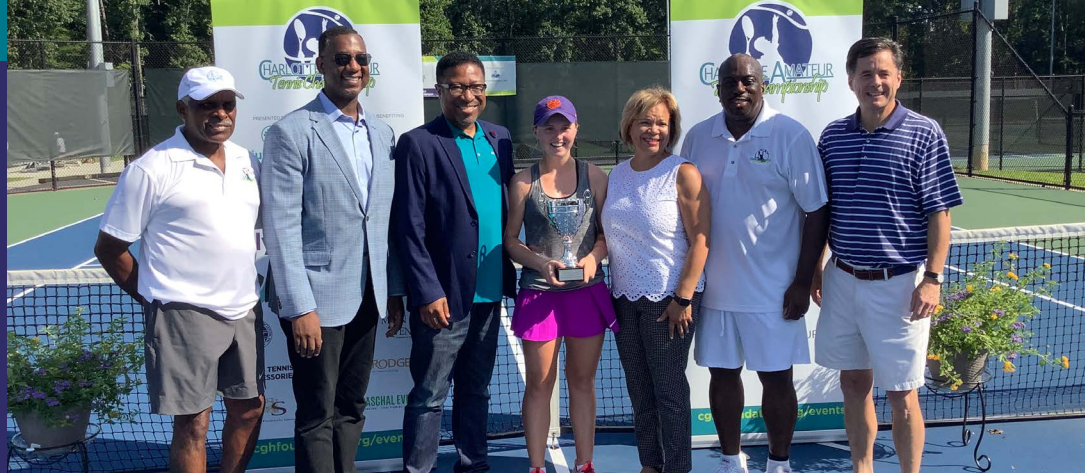
Melissa Morse & Iyuba Karpachoua

### A Division Wheelchair

Johnny Ragland & Hunter Smithers

### B Division Wheelchair

Chris Dominick & Kelly Hunter



(from left to right) George Anderson, tournament operations director, Mark Jerrell, Mecklenburg County Commissioner, Jim Dunn, executive Vice President Atrium Health, Jenna Thompson, Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, Fmr. sen. Malcolm Graham chairman CGF Foundation, Joel Turner, Charlotte tennis association



### Men's Open Champion Jan Meyer

A former college tennis standout at Azusa Pacific University, Meyer earned recognition as the No. 1 singles player in NCAA Division II play. A native of Germany, Meyer continues to play tennis whenever he can.



### Women's Open Champion Jenna Thompson

An incoming senior at South Mecklenburg High School, Thompson is an elite talent who's ranked as a 5-star prospect and the No. 1 ranked player in North Carolina in the class of 2020. Already committed to Clemson University, she's currently ranked as the No. 25 junior tennis player in the nation.



CYNTHIA GRAHAM HURD  
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## About the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation

A lifelong Charlestonian, Cynthia Graham Hurd was a self-proclaimed “book nerd” who grew up to share her love of books and had a tireless desire to help others in her community. A 31-year employee of the Charleston County Public Library, Cynthia was one of nine people tragically shot on June 17, 2015 while attending a bible study at Emanuel AME Church — just four days before her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday.

After her tragic passing, Cynthia’s family established The Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation for Literacy & Civic Engagement to continue her work and legacy of engaging the community through a love an appreciation of reading. As a librarian, Cynthia stirred a passion for reading across generations and literary genres. The Foundation works the way Cynthia lived her life: advocating for the expansion of literacy and the availability of books for everyone.

## Press & Media Links

Press interest in the event was high, thanks to a planned Media Sponsors day on July 30. In total, the tournament garnered 13 feature news stories from print and digital publications in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. Links to the stories are included below:



**The Charlotte Post**  
Forum focuses on firearms violence as public health crisis

**WBTB ON YOUR SIDE**  
Amateur Charlotte Tennis Tournament promotes sport and court play

**The Charlotte Observer**  
Tennis event wants to find Charlotte's best players and honor church shooting victim

**WCCB CHARLOTTE THE CW**  
Hundreds Turn Out For Tonight's Moms Demand Action Meeting On Reducing Gun Violence

Promotion of the event also included organic and paid social media promotion via the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation’s Facebook page.