

2012 USTA Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame Andrea Norman



Andrea Norman

Volunteering has been a way for Andrea Norman of San Jose to give back to the sport that has given her so much. "Truly, tennis has given back to me so much more than I have ever given it. The most rewarding part is the friendships, relationships and personal enjoyment. Through tennis I have made friendships that will last a lifetime."

Her selfless service has included directing the USTA Girls' 18 National Championships, starting a local tennis-based non-profit organization and participating on regional and national committees that have worked toward making tennis accessible for everyone.

Andrea first stepped onto a tennis court at the age of eight while living in Bakersfield. "It was 1972 and I was lucky to live in an area where tennis was so hot," says Andrea, who along with her parents took tennis lessons at the local park. "Tennis became part of what our entire family did. There was a circuit of junior tournaments that I participated in and my parents were involved through the local clubs and tournaments, as well as at the US Open."

Following her junior year in high school Andrea took a break from competing to tend to other scholastic responsibilities. But after getting married and having two children, she realized that tennis was still in her blood. She explains, "It was my husband who suggested that I start to play again; he travelled a lot for work and my youngest child was old enough to go into the nursery at the Almaden Valley Athletic Club (AVAC), which gave me time to play."

It was Andrea's doubles partner, Jennifer Pitzen, who offered her the opportunity to become involved with the USTA Girl's 18's National Championships, which at the time was held at AVAC. "I needed to do something to give back to the community; my own personal skill set has grown beyond what I could have ever imagined – all because of tennis." says Andrea. Six years later, in 1999, Andrea started a 10-year service as the Tournament Director.

In 2007, the tournament was moved to the Berkeley Tennis Club, where Andrea and Jennifer ran it under their non-profit, the National Tennis Championships (NTC) organization. The Girl's 18's moved to San Diego in 2010, however, the NTC is still very much active.

Her dedication to the Girl's 18's created the opportunity for Andrea to participate on numerous national USTA committees, including the USTA Youth Competition & Training Committee, Constitution & Rules Committee, High Performance Committee, Player Development Assessment Group, Junior Competition Committee and an ad hoc Junior Team Tennis committee. Andrea is also one of the annual editors of the USTA's "Friend at Court".

Andrea is also very active on the local level and along with the Girl's 18's has helped with the AVAC NTRP Doubles Classic for over thirteen years. She served on the USTA NorCal Board of Directors from 2004 to 2005 and was an advisory director in 2008. Additionally, Andrea is the Chair of the Junior Council Committee, Constitution & Rules Committee, Adult Tournament Committee, NorCal Sanctions and Schedule Committee and the AVAC Tennis Committee. She has also helped run the Stanford Women's Regional Championships and the Lower Peninsula Interclub League.

Andrea credits the support of her husband of 25 years, Dave, and her two children, Robert and Olivia, for all that she has accomplished. She says, "My family is so supportive of me playing tennis. They really understood, recognized and gave me the opportunity to do all this. I was lucky to be a stay at home mom and have the time to give back to tennis in these ways."

