



Sterling House

COMMUNITY CENTER

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Fifteen years later, Taylor can't remember exactly how much was raised, "but it was enough to buy all of the equipment and medals to hand out at the end of the week." The last piece, she said, was making sure that each elementary school was given flyers so that people knew Kick Start existed.

Several years went by and soon it was time for Taylor to go off to college. But waiting in the wings, and fully versed and experienced to step-up into her new role was Taylor's younger sister, Tory.

Tory remembers, "The first year Taylor started Kick Start, I was only in middle school, so I could not actively participate as a coach. However, my sister was very generous in including me and offered me the position of photographer," which allowed her "to interact with the kids and get to know them. I'd help set-up and take-down the goals, chaperone lunch and breaks," and in preparation as Taylor would go to different businesses looking for sponsors and handing out flyers. "It was such an exciting year and Taylor's passion was contagious."

The following year, Tory entered high school, "and I eagerly volunteered as a coach. Once Taylor graduated high school, she graciously entrusted the lead role to me, along with continued support from our parents. I tried to keep everything organized and performed the way she had done. And when it came time for me to graduate high school, I proudly passed the program to the Simon and Pancak families."

So 15 years later, where are the Ault sisters? In December 2016, Taylor said, "At the moment I'm working at NYU and studying for my MBA. I'll graduate in May and will be looking to eventually work in sports management and to represent athletes."

She added, "The Kick Start program has obviously evolved over the years, but the core mission has remained the same. It was such a life-changing experience for me and my friends, to be able to take ownership and to think strategically and creatively, and then see the impact our efforts have had on the kids."

Tory agreed. She is currently working on her M.A. degree from the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Fairfield University, working part-time in retail and interning at a private practice. She expects to graduate in December 2017 and hopes find a position as a therapist in the local area.

"Taylor and I were fortunate enough to get the opportunity to participate in sports ... and outside of school, sports took up the majority of our time. Not only did soccer provide a solid friends group, it also provided us with structure and life skills.

"I honestly couldn't be happier that what my sister dreamed up and created is continuing to serve the community. I was and am honored to have been a part of it."

Sterling House salutes Taylor and Tory and their parents for beginning the Kick Start program that continues to serve our community today.