



Press Release
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For Immediate Release

Aruna C. Bernier Named PTR Humanitarian of the Year

Hilton Head Island, SC - - Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) presented its annual awards last night during the 2016 PTR International Tennis Symposium. The event, which includes more than 40 educational presentations for tennis teachers and coaches, will be held February 17-20 on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Aruna Chettri Bernier, of Austin, Texas, has been named PTR Humanitarian of the Year.

A PTR Certified Professional, Bernier is the Director of TennisBuddys, LLC, www.tennisbuddys.com a program she started in 2004, after becoming a mom.



Photo from left: PTR Board President Roy Barth, Aruna C Bernier, PTR Foundation Chair Scott Tharp and PTR CEO Dan Santorum,

She puts all her boundless energy into helping grow the game by teaching tennis.

But last year, it almost came to a screeching halt when back-to-back 7.3 and 7.8 magnitude earthquakes in her native Nepal killed more than 8,000 people, injured 19,000 more, and displaced 450,000. Creating mass destruction and thousands of orphans, the earthquakes also triggered Mount Everest's deadliest avalanche, and one in the Langtang Valley where hundreds were killed.

Rather than sit idly or simply write a check, Bernier sprang into action, focusing her energy into the relief effort. Quickly, she established a Texas non-profit, and used her expertise as a former web graphic designer to create www.ArunasNepalRelief.org

With her mother and friends reporting from Kathmandu, Bernier teamed with a grassroots organization already on the ground and got to work collecting what was needed most. The earthquake hit in late April and by June, she and a small team she assembled were on a plane with essential supplies.

(Of course, Bernier made sure TennisBuddys would continue and be properly run in her month long absence. All of her students supported her mission with donations and supplies.)



*PTR Board President Roy Barth,
PTR Foundation Chair Scott Tharp and PTR CEO Dan Santorum,
Billie Jean King (PTR Hall of Fame Induction), Aruna C Bernier, PTR awards recipients*

Nine months later, Nepal still needs enormous help as the rebuilding process continues. As PTR Humanitarian of the Year, Bernier is awarded a \$2,500 check from the PTR Foundation to help her continue her work. Moved by her acceptance, PTR Foundation Chairman, Scott Tharp doubles the amount. Billie Jean King then matched the Foundation grant and asked others to contribute as well.

PTR is proud to honor Aruna Chettri Bernier, who displays the best of humanity, and reminds us that we could all do more, no matter how busy our lives may seem.

PTR is the largest global organization of tennis teaching professionals with more than 15,000 members in 127 countries. It has the greatest percentage of multicultural and women members of any such organization. PTR is dedicated to educating, certifying and servicing tennis teachers and coaches around the world in order to grow the game.

Contact: Peggy Edwards • PO Box 4739, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938 USA
843-785-7244 or 800-421-6289 • fax 843-686-2033 • peggy@ptrtennis.org • www.ptrtennis.org