

World Class Tae Kwon Do, Inc.

FACT SHEET

What is our mission?

We exist to inspire, educate and develop leadership through traditional Taekwondo worldwide.

Tell us about WCTKD

We are a nonprofit Taekwondo organization founded by Grand Master Tae Zee Park and Grand Master Richard Warren in 2008. WCTKD offers programs that enhance the life-long learning and leadership development of traditional Taekwondo through tournaments, workshops and seminars. With funds raised by these programs and their sponsors we also support practitioners obtaining collegiate education with academic scholarships based on merit and financial need. So far we have issued 22 college scholarships.

The WCTKD board as well as all programs are led and staffed 100% by volunteers who love Taekwondo and want to pay it forward to others.

What is our address?

WCTKD, Inc. 2025 East Beltline Ave. SE, Suite 208, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49546 www.worldclass-tkd.org

How long have we been around?

Incorporated as a nonprofit Charitable 501 (c) (3) organization in 2008 in Michigan USA

What programs are offered?

1. Scholarships-to help with college expenses
 - a. National – 19 issued since 2012
 - b. International - 3 issued in 2017
2. Tournaments-
 - a. State games of Michigan 2010-2017
 - b. State games of Tennessee (and state game qualifier 2017)
 - c. State Games of America 2017
3. Referee Training Workshops - several per year
4. Grand Master Led Workshops – several per year

How many Master Instructors are involved with WCTKD?

WCTKD is supported by generous donations of time, talent and money by over 65 master instructors, including:

- 2 Grand Masters
- 5 Junior Grand Masters
- 11 Senior Masters
- 47 Masters

What is Taekwondo?

Traditional Taekwondo is a martial art that uses unarmed kicking and punching. It is an organized system of life-long instruction. It is based on Taekwondo techniques, but encompasses a way of thinking and living. The foundation of Taekwondo is the instructor-student relationship. With the proper combination this relationship and the learning will last a lifetime and be passed on through generations. Traditional Taekwondo requires traditional masters and future leaders to grow. It also requires a 30 to 40 year view of consequences of decisions made today. Masters seek perfection in technique with unity of mind, body and spirit in harmony with the universe leading to inner peace, self-actualization and ultimately the betterment of humankind. The ultimate aim of Taekwondo lies not in victory or defeat, but in the perfection of those who participate.

Benefits of Taekwondo?

Taekwondo is a way of life that develops leaders with integrity and humility built on discipline, mutual respect and self-confidence. By practicing traditional Taekwondo students learn the formula for success in life.

Stories from Taekwondo students

1. "Being awarded WCTKD's scholarship in 2015 cut down on my tuition rate. My college has a lot of aid, but that last portion is what gets you, and every scholarship to minimize cost is a great benefit. Also, there is an honor in receiving this organization's scholarship, in knowing I have its support behind me, which touched me greatly." 2015 Scholarship recipient.
2. "Thank you, World Class Tae Kwon Do, for awarding me the 2015 Academic Scholarship. Having grown up in Tae Park Tae Kwon Do, it has been amazing to see how the organization has grown over the years. Since my first day of class nearly 13 years ago, my instructors have always emphasized the important connection between academics and Tae Kwon Do. As I work towards my undergraduate degree at Michigan State University, support provided by the scholarship will help offset the cost of textbooks and research supplies for future projects. I look forward to continue representing Tae Park Tae Kwon Do as a competitor, teacher, and student." 2015 Scholarship recipient.
3. "Thank you so much for allowing me to be considered for the World Class Taekwondo Scholarship I received this past fall. It is because of this scholarship, that I have been able to afford school supplies deemed a necessity, not just for my first year of college, but my entire college career, such as a computer. Therefore, I'm very grateful to have received this scholarship, which I'm sure will help me to succeed throughout my college career." 2014 Scholarship recipient.
4. "My only escape from day to day life of being another face in the crowd is taekwondo. Everyone around me sees another face in the crowd but as soon as I put on my uniform I feel as if I am a different person, as if I had a new identity. My personality does not change, but my view on my surroundings change. My look on the world has changed. I want to protect and stay aware of everything around me. Everywhere I look something bad is going on in the world, but we could make a difference, we could change how an event happens just by not being there or around there. Taekwondo is a skill that takes time and patience to learn to use it properly. Using these skills can change the fate of an event." Margaret Smithe*, high school senior black belt.
5. "Taekwondo has given me self-confidence, built up my self-esteem and has given me the ability to become a stronger competitor. It has also created a sense of pride and security in my life. It is also about helping others become the best that they can be. It's about learning the ability to mentally push through any and every obstacle that stands in our way." Jennifer Jones*, 18 year old 2nd degree black belt.
6. "'What has Taekwondo done for me?'...Taekwondo has showed me many things but the four most important things it has showed me is discipline/respect, responsibility, experience, and self-defense. These are four huge things that Taekwondo has taught me and I will carry with me forever." James Washington*, 18 year old 1st degree black belt.
7. "Being confident is something I was struggling with for a long time before I started Taekwondo. The longer I was in class and doing seminars the more confident I got in myself (not to be confused with arrogant or getting a big head). For example the first time I broke a board I was so scared I wasn't strong enough or I would hurt my hand and then my hand went straight through the board. That moment showed me that I can do this, I can break boards, I can do what I set my mind to! I now walk with my head held high knowing I can do anything as long as I practice at it." Joe Smith*, 13 year old 1st degree black belt.

*Pseudonym: the quote is real, but the name has been changed.