



GYMNASTICS RAISES NEARLY \$150,000 FOR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

Once again, gymnastics clubs across the country put forth their best efforts and raised nearly \$150,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. Since USA Gymnastics first partnered with Children's Miracle Network in 2001, the gymnastics community has donated more than \$1 million to the cause. Gym clubs and their members raised money as part of their celebrations for National Gymnastics Day through the Tyson Fitness Challenge. The Tyson Fitness Challenge is a joint initiative of USA Gymnastics and Tyson Foods that helps today's kids get more physically fit through fun activities and raises money to help kids who are fighting illness at Children's Miracle Network hospitals around the country.

"Young kids make an incredible difference when they work for those who really need it," said Steve Penny, president of USA Gymnastics.

"The Children's Miracle Network helps save

the lives of kids every day, and USA Gymnastics appreciates everything the gymnastics community does with the Tyson Fitness Challenge and National Gymnastics Day to benefit such a worthwhile cause."

The 2009 Tyson Fitness Challenge and National Gymnastics Day served as catalysts for the fundraising efforts of the top club and individuals for the Children's Miracle Network. Gymnastics World of Broadview Heights, Ohio, once again led the way, raising a total of \$28,936.26 with the individual winner, Abby Villeneuve, producing \$7,250 of that total. Gymnastics World has been the top fundraising club for the last three years. The top three clubs and individual participants receive prizes from AAI, Tyson and USA Gymnastics.

The top three clubs that raised the most money for Children's Miracle Network in 2009 are listed on the next page.

TOP CLUBS:

1. GYMNASTICS WORLD, BROADVIEW, OHIO
\$28,936.26 (PICTURED LEFT)

2. NORTHERN ELITE, FLANDERS, N.J.
\$21,065.49 OWNER NORREN CACCHIONE

3. FLIP FEST, CROSSVILLE, TENN. \$14,318.75

Let's Meet the Winners

By Mary Kate Oreovicz

USA Gymnastics talked to the winners to learn more about their fundraising efforts. Here's what they had to say.



1st Place Winner: Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights, Ohio

Club Owners - Joan and Ron Ganim
Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights, Ohio,
\$28,936.26, taking its seven-year total to
\$151,887.26

USA Gymnastics: *Why did you decide to help raise money for the Children's Miracle Network?*

Ron Ganim: It has always been our belief that we are teachers first and coaches second. Part of being a teacher involves looking at the total child, not just the athletic side. This responsibility as a teacher invokes the need to find ways that help parents and community raise the child to be a good person. And, being a good person, in part, means helping others. CMN gave us the opportunity to teach the kids that when everyone does a little, we can make the world a better place to live.

USA Gymnastics: *Does your club take part in any other charitable fundraisers?*

Ron Ganim: Yes, through our local cities, we sponsor up to three needy families every Christmas season. After receiving each family's "Wish List," the kids that wish to participate pick a gift tag off of the paper tree in our lobby, purchase, wrap and return the gift to us. Last year alone, our kids purchased more than 120 gifts, bringing the spirit of Christmas to six adults and 11 children. The beautiful part of this is that all gifts, as well as the receiving families, are anonymous. We do not know who they are; they do not know it was the Gym and Cheer World kids that bought the gifts.

USA Gymnastics: *What is your favorite memory from this year's fundraiser?*

Ron Ganim: We love the ingenuity of some of the girls! A few had lemonade stands in their neighborhoods. Our high school girls placed canisters in a few local restaurants and raised \$190.00, but the best was Abby Villeneuve, who conducted a raffle for various prizes, including I-Touch and I-Pods. \$10 gave you one chance to win, \$20 gave you three chances....etc. In all, Abby Raised \$7,250!

USA Gymnastics: *How did you encourage your students to participate in the fundraiser this year?*

Ron Ganim: Quite simply whenever the timing is right, we talk to the kids about being a good person and how their participation in the CMN effort will help their journey. We speak of an obligation to help others; opportunity to grow; and how selfless acts help us feel good about ourselves.

USA Gymnastics: *How would you encourage other clubs to participate in fundraising for the Children's Miracle Network next year?*

Ron Ganim: If a coach is only a coach, they will not participate so it really doesn't matter what we say here. However, for those who believe that teaching the child is more important than coaching the gymnast in them, they will find a way to take the time, exert the effort, and reap the benefits of having a gym full of great kids, thereby making the coaching efforts more enjoyable and more productive. The amount of money raised is secondary to the concept of giving children the opportunity to become a contributing member of society.

CLUB FUNDRAISING LIST

CLUB

TOTAL

Gymnastics World, Broadview Heights, OH	\$27,936.26
Northern Elite, Flanders, NJ	\$21,065.49
Flip Fest, Crossville, TN	\$14,318.75
California Sports Centers, San Jose, CA	\$11,943.53
Arizona Sunrays, Phoenix, AZ	\$9,593.76
AZ KTAR FM, Glendale, AZ	\$6,180.00
Region 6 Auction, Boston, MA	\$5,979.00
West Valley Gymnastics, Campbell, CA	\$5,088.90
Aim High Academy, East Greenwich, RI	\$3,874.04
Discover Gymnastics, Houston, TX	\$3,501.00
Ten Point O Gymnastics, Ridgeville, OH	\$2,500.00
Olympiad Gymnastics, St Louis, MO	\$2,286.30
Queen City Gymnastics, Cincinnati, OH	\$2,085.00
All Star Gymnastics, Harvey, LA	\$2,000.00
All Star Gyms, KS	\$2,000.00
Dynamite Academy, Waterbury, CT	\$2,000.00
1st Class Gymnastics, Lackawanna, PA	\$1,659.44
TNT Gymnastics & Fitness, Jacksonville, FL	\$1,560.00
Online donation	\$1,411.00
Sonshine Academy, Conway, AR	\$1,297.01
American School of Gymnastics, Wilbraham, MA	\$1,280.07
Shenandoah Tumblers, Winchester, VA	\$1,400.00
Legacy Gymnastics, Lexington, KY	\$1,141.50
Jump Start Gymnastics	\$762.50
Leaps N Bounders, Trevoze, PA	\$745.00
SIGS Sportplex, New Albany, NY	\$745.00
Gym South Gymnastics & Cheerleading, Fayetteville, GA	\$708.37
The Little Gym of Nightsdale, Nightsdale, NC	\$683.00
Countryside Gymnastics, Fayetteville, NC	\$665.00
Santa Cruz Gymnastics Center, Santa Cruz, CA	\$654.75
Inspire Athletics, Elkhart, IN	\$650.00
WISC, Williamsburg, VA	\$608.00
Palm Valley, Harlingen, TX	\$595.00
Champions Academy, Morgan Hill, CA	\$591.00
Online donation	\$533.00
I & M Gymnastics, Channahon, IL	\$522.00
Gymnastics Academy of Boston, Plainville, MA	\$493.00
Atlantic Gymnastics Training Center, Dover, NH	\$447.80
Emerald City Gymnastics, Ft Walton Beach, FL	\$423.50
The Gymnastics Academy of Plainville	\$423.00
Gymnastics, Etc., Sulphur, LA	\$400.00
North Florida Gymnastics, Jacksonville, FL	\$327.84
CS Gymnastics Inc, Flanders, NJ	\$300.00
Janet's All-Star Cheerleading, Gym and Dance, Wright, KS	\$285.00
Metro Gymnastics Center, Tigard, OR	\$277.13
Technique Gymnastics, Rancho Cordova, CA	\$275.00
Frisco Gymnastics Center, Frisco, TX	\$220.00
Starz Gymnastics, Omaha, NE	\$217.50
DMG Inc, Lafayette, IN	\$200.00
Illinois Gymnastics Institute Inc., Westmont, IL	\$180.00
Sharp's Gymnastics Academy, Indianapolis, IN	\$160.00
Hartland Gymnastics Academy, Howell, MI	\$150.00
Patti's All American, Dyer, IN	\$141.00
Rutgers Gymnastics	\$140.55
Naples Progressive Gymnastics, Naples, FL	\$100.00
Flip 2 It, Roseville, CA	\$100.00
Danik Gymnastics, Eagle, ID	\$87.81
Flagstaff Gymnastics, Flagstaff, AZ	\$65.00
Youngsters Inc., Yuba City, CA	\$50.00
Leaps N Bounds, Fairfield, ME	\$50.00
Firehouse Gym, Johnsbury, IL	\$40.00
Los Alamos Flyers, Los Alamos, CA	\$40.00
The Little Gym of Lake Osago, OR	\$29.00
Monroe County YMCA, Bloomington, IN	\$20.00
The Little Gym, Beaverton, OR	\$5.00

TOTAL: \$147,613.80



2nd Place Winner: Northern Elite Gymnastics & Cheer - Flanders, New Jersey
Club Owner - Noreen Cacchione
Northern Elite, Flanders, N.J, \$21,065.49

USA Gymnastics: *Why did you decide to help raise money for the Children's Miracle Network?*

Noreen Cacchione: Last year we were invited by CMN to participate in an event at the Children's Specialized Hospital to kick off the Tyson Fitness Challenge. We were a new gym and our team kids love to do exhibitions so we went with the idea that they could use their skills to help out. Everyone we met at this event had a giving heart and a positive attitude, including the patients. It felt great to be a part of something so special. Our gymnasts left that hospital determined to make a change. And their success just makes us all want to do more! We are just getting started.

USA Gymnastics: *Does your club take part in any other charitable fundraisers?*

Noreen Cacchione: Yes, we do as much as we can, but Children's Miracle Network is our favorite!

USA Gymnastics: *What is your favorite memory from this year's fundraiser?*

Noreen Cacchione: The energy that filled the gym as every child gave their all in preparation for our show "Miracles." The generous spirit throughout the gym was contagious! Every person involved will instantly smile when you ask them about Northern Elite's "Miracles." It was a HUGE feel-good memory!

USA Gymnastics: *How did you encourage your students to participate in the fundraiser his year?*

**Interviews continued
on p. 37**

Noreen Cacchione: All I did was encourage the opportunity. The kids, the coaches and their families ran with it. They had teams and captains and they all encouraged each other.

USA Gymnastics: *How would you encourage other clubs to participate in fundraising for the Children's Miracle Network next year?*

Noreen Cacchione: I would suggest that you encourage your athletes to visit a CMN hospital and meet the children they are working for. I don't think there is any more powerful way to appreciate how their efforts can impact their own peers within their own community. Kids helping kids...it's a beautiful thing.



3rd Place Winner: John Macready's and John Roethlisberger's Flip Fest - Lake Francis, Tenn.
Club Owners - John Macready and John Roethlisberger
\$14,318.75

USA Gymnastics: *Why did you decide to help raise money for the Children's Miracle Network?*

John Macready: We always want to "give back" and the CMN is a wonderful cause.

USA Gymnastics: *Does your club take part in any other charitable fundraisers?*

John Macready: No, as of now, we focus all fundraising efforts on the CMN.

USA Gymnastics: *What is your favorite memory from this year's fundraiser?*

John Macready: Our campers compete each week to "beat" the previous week's campers in the funds they raise. To see the faces on the campers when they realize they raised more money than a previous week is pretty awesome.

USA Gymnastics: *How did you encourage your students to participate in the fundraiser this year?*

John Macready: We explain to them that they are fortunate enough to be able to go to summer camp and have a blast, and many others would have loved to have been in their position. By giving back to CMN, they are able to help those kids that aren't able to be out attending something fun like summer camp.

USA Gymnastics: *How would you encourage other clubs to participate in fundraising for the Children's Miracle Network next year?*

John Macready: The mere rewarding feeling of knowing you have personally been able to help out kids in need is enough motivation for us! ✖