



CHRISTINE DECK – FLYING HIGH

By Luan Peszek

I first met Chris Deck, owner of Flying High Sports & Recreation Center in Countryside, Ill., in 2009, when the Tyson American Cup was held in Hoffman Estates, Ill. Chris was one of the many volunteers who helped out with all aspects of the event. It was evident from the start that Chris was organized, hard working and generous in donating her time and gym. Thank you Chris.

I recently learned of some new developments in Chris' life and it is such a great story I asked Chris if I could share it with you in our Club Corner.

Chris is a single gymnastics club owner and wanted

to have children. She started out being a foster parent and decided she really wanted to adopt. She began the process with River of Hope orphanage in Haiti. She read about this new adoption agency which was located in her hometown. After much research and discussion, she decided to go with this new company, even though she knew she was its first case!

"I'm always rooting for the underdog, after all, who would have thought I'd open my own gymnastics school at age 19," said Deck.

The adoption process was moving along smoothly and it was nearing the end of the process when the



earthquake hit Haiti. She had no idea what that would mean to her situation.

Later she would learn that it meant three weeks of pure chaos. She had to rush forms here and there and did a lot of praying. She learned in late February that there was a possibility that the Department of Homeland Security would be answering her very soon. A few days later she received notice that the children were approved and were scheduled on a flight the next day headed to Miami. This was sooner than Chris had planned for or even thought was possible.

Chris bought a plane ticket and flew to Miami where she greeted her new children in the Miami airport. This

gym club owner now has two children Tyler Evenson, 15 month old boy, and Emerlyn Dayana, a 4 month old girl.

She said, "Although things have been a little crazy getting the kids settled and starting this new chapter in my life, it has been a true blessing. I want to thank my club – the gymnasts, parents and coaches for their support and understanding during these last couple of months. They've definitely embraced the kids and made them feel a part of our gymnastics family. It has been a whirlwind but well worth the efforts." Chris Desk is definitely Flying High! ✨