

Pink Invitational Event Overview

The 2009 Pink Invitational~Gymnasts Unite was a huge success, raising over \$65,000 for Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC). We hope this successful beginning is just the start of a long tradition for the Pink Invitational. The positive energy in the field house was contagious, and touched all who attended the event. The Pink Invitational brought together skilled and talented gymnasts, as well as families with heartfelt stories of amazing, strong and courageous women who have fought this disease.

Who: The Pink Invitational competition featured over 1,100 level 4 – 10/Open gymnasts, representing 36 teams from five states. The proceeds from the event will benefit LBBC, which works to empower women affected by breast cancer to live as long as possible with the best quality of life.

What: The Pink Invitational not only provided an opportunity for excellent gymnastics competition, it allowed the girls and young women who participated to stand up to breast cancer through a sport they love.

When: February 27, 28 and March 1, 2009

Where: United Sports Training Center in Downingtown, PA

Why: Sue Weldon, an AJS Pancott Gymnastics coach, is a breast cancer survivor who believes in the importance of empowering and bringing awareness about breast cancer to young women and girls. The Pink Invitational was a wonderful opportunity to educate young athletes while raising money to support a valuable organization through gymnastics competition.

How: The Pink Invitational was hosted by AJS Pancott Gymnastics, located in West Chester, PA, and sponsored by Verizon. The success of the event was due to the hard work and participation of the gymnasts and many volunteers, along with individual and corporate donations. The gymnastics community, with the support of our local community, came together that weekend to make a difference in the lives of others and help women who are battling this devastating disease.

Total donation: over \$65,000

Quotes:

Lauren Ainsworth, LBBC's Special Events Manager, said, "The event was so rewarding. I saw the gymnastics community come together for a wonderful cause, I saw women, young and old, give a little bit to make a big difference, and I saw a terrific inaugural event go off without a hitch. The money you've raised has closed the gap left due to the economic crisis and enabled us to continue to help women affected by breast cancer."

Doug Smith, VP External Affairs at Verizon, was quoted as saying, "Verizon was proud to sponsor the PINK Invitational and appreciates the opportunity to invest in the communities where our employees live and work. It was an inspirational event to witness world class gymnasts and breast cancer education come together to make a difference and generate funds for Living Beyond Breast Cancer."

Sue Weldon, Pink Invitational Event Director, said "The positive energy that filled the field house was contagious and felt by all! It was very clear that this was more than a gymnastics

competition, but an experience that meant so much to so many. The USA gymnastics community has all united as one giving back to those in need. I am overwhelmed with joy for I know how much this will mean to so many women battling breast cancer”

Speakers:

Lu Ann Cahn, NBC 10 Investigative Reporter and breast cancer survivor
Lauren Ainsworth, Special Events Director for Living Beyond Breast Cancer
Alison Donely, The Light Within (yoga)
Dr. Michelle Vichnin, faculty at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Gymnast Contributions:

For each 9.0 or higher they scored, \$1 was donated by the Pink Youth Board to LBBC, and gymnasts were given a pink ribbon with their name on it to hang in the awards area. Over the three days, nearly 1,400 pink ribbons were earned and displayed as evidence of their unity and gymnastics achievement.

The gymnastics teams that registered for the event were issued a challenge to raise \$500 or more for LBBC through their own fundraisers. Seven teams took up the ‘Above and Beyond Challenge’ and together their total donations were over \$10,000. Those teams were Action Gymnastics, AGRA Springers, AJS Pancott Gymnastics, Lakettes, Gym Dandy’s, GymOlympic, and Silvia’s Gymnastics. Action Gymnastics of Howell, NJ won the contest by raising an incredible \$1,800.

About AJS Pancott Gymnastics National Training Center:

AJS Pancott Gymnastics began in 1997 as an expansion of Pancott Gymnastics, one of the oldest gymnastics programs in the country. It has grown to be one of the largest competitive women’s gymnastics programs in Pennsylvania, sending numerous gymnasts to Nationals and to university programs on scholarships. AJS Pancott Gymnastics offers competitive training and recreational gymnastics to hundreds of local athletes from ages 18 months to 18 years. AJS Pancott Gymnastics is owned and operated by Steve and Louise Pancott. The training center is located in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

About Living Beyond Breast Cancer:

Living Beyond Breast Cancer is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering all women affected by breast cancer to live as long as possible with the best quality of life. Programs and services include lbbc.org, the Survivors’ Helpline at (888) 753-LBBC (5222), conferences, teleconferences, networking programs, newsletters, publications, and recordings.

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