

Life STORIES



Financial Update

First off, we want to say how much we appreciate all of you who have partnered with us, whether it's been for years or months. **It truly means so much to us!**

Unfortunately, our **support account is not in a great place** as we are currently in the negative. Thankfully because I've been doing so many Gymblast I am still able to get most of my pay-check. So we are looking for more people to partner with us as we look to serve these kids with excellence, bring hope and, offer belonging. If you believe in what we are doing **we would love it if you help us bring hope to the youth we work with!**

Mitchell + Jenna

That's a Wrap!

Wow, what a year! **For the first time since 2019, we have fully completed a YFCHL season.** We honestly had an incredible year filled with **great new kids** that we fell in love with as well as **the core kids** that we already have strong relationships with. One of the toughest times of this year was when two of our core kids left us before the Christmas break to go back to the reserve with their mother. This was a challenging time, as not only was the brother one of the best goalie prospects we've had in quite some time but it was challenging knowing that there is a very real possibility that we won't see them again or at least not for many years. **So we are praying that they come back to us soon!**

When I think of highlights from this year I am reminded of how chaotic the beginning of the year was when we had 30 new kids and we didn't know what to do with them. **But as the year continued, most of them stuck around and found a place to belong in our program.** Now only a few short months removed from then, it is almost impossible to imagine what our league would be like without them! I cannot wait to see how much they will change over summer and how many come back for another year!

I think back to the last two years and I realize just how uncertain life can be. And even though I think we did all we could with what we were given the last couple of years **I am even more appreciative to be doing what I love and what I believe I am supposed to be doing.**

"I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

To easily join-in on what we are doing, head to:
BRINGHOPE.TODAY



Reflections

One thing I love about the finals is I get to share a pretty special moment with the winners. I get to congratulate them and say a few short words but more than that **I get to share with them a moment that they will remember for the rest of their lives.** It's why we put so much effort into the website, keeping track of stats, standings, and achievements. It's why we drive all around the city picking up a bunch of kids. It's why we tackle the tough questions of life with them. It's why we make this league as legitimate as possible. Because **we believe in them and want them to know we are in their corner.**

One thing I have a love/hate relationship with during our awards banquet is our retirees. I love being able to look through the year and see how these little boys have grown into strong, responsible, and caring men. **It is beautiful to celebrate with them all their hard work and achievements but it's also incredibly sad to say, "Goodbye" to them.** Some of these guys spent 10 years with us! Two of them have been a part of YFCHL longer than myself. It is going to be weird not seeing them every Wednesday but I am so grateful that God brought them to us and trusted us with them for as long as He did. **These young men will all have a special place in my heart.**



Our Championship Captains and Retirees

California Breakaway Returns!



Gateway Plaza Salt Lake City



Mission Beach San Diego

For the past 43 years, our organization **has taken busloads of high school students on a 10-day trip to California.** I love being a part of this trip because I went on it when I was in high school and **I know how transformative it can be.**

It is ultimately the reason I run our Gymblast program. I love being able to work with schools and help develop their student leaders while giving them a fun experience. The biggest reason I do it is to go into schools and promo this incredible life-changing trip.

It was certainly a strange year as we only ended up taking one bus of students to Cali. Now typically as we drive down in the bus the first day or so is a little awkward as we have a bus full of people who don't know each other. But this year something was different. **In almost no time, the bus melded together and**

forged this dysfunctional family. It was the closest and tightest group I have ever experienced.

Shared experience is such a powerful tool in forming relationships. **I got to share some incredible moments with the guys in these photos.** Whether it was hitting up a massive rollercoaster, serving with them in inner-city LA, watching the sunset over the ocean with them; or being able to have real conversations about life in a hot tub. These moments are the same moments that helped shape me into who I am today and **I can't wait to see how these moments will shape them!**

We get to do some pretty incredible things on this trip but my favourite thing is being able to **share with them how much they are loved and valued by the one who made them.**

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." - John 10:10