2021: The Year in Review



2022 Sponsorships
Available NOW

2021 was an incredible inaugural year for the Foundation. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated, we exceeded all of our goals and were able to fully fund our scholarship program and bestow the first Thomas Flair Award, in alignment with our mission statement:

The Kurt Thomas Foundation seeks to expose youth to the power they possess to reach their highest potential and help empower them to make a difference. The Foundation will raise funds to provide a minimum of one training scholarship per year to a deserving young gymnast who embodies the qualities of Kurt Thomas. The Foundation will further Kurt's passion for increasing awareness and interest in the sport of gymnastics by recognizing individuals who have made a significant impact on the sport with the Thomas Flair Award.

2021 Kurt Thomas Scholarship Winner—Solen Chiodi

The Foundation is honored to introduce our first scholarship recipient, Solen Chiodi. Choosing this young gymnast was not an easy task as there were many amazing applications from all over the US. Solen comes from a great family and has two sisters. One, Ida, has Down Syndrome. This inspired him to work at Gigi's Playhouse, a Down Syndrome Achievement center. He also volunteers his time to work at the Special Olympics.

Solen has a strong desire to serve and help others.

He began his gymnastic career at the age of 7 in Michigan. After 4 years, he and his family realized that if he was going to advance his skills, he would need to move to another club.

This is where we saw how much love and dedication he and his family have for the sport, as the best club for him was in Minnesota, hundreds of miles from his home. He was able to move in with his grandparents and start a training program at the Mini Hops Gymnastics Club under the coaching of Doug Price, and has been steadily improving his craft.

We are so proud to be associated with this exemplary scholarship recipient!

2021 Thomas Flair Award Winner—Mike Jacki

Mike is widely regarded as one of the most visionary and influential leaders over the past three decades in both Olympic sports and action sports. He's held CEO positions for both the U.S. national governing bodies for Gymnastics and Skiing.

As President of USA Gymnastics, Mike initiated the Safety Program in 1985. His accomplishments also include:

- Finalist for the 1968 Nissen Award after winning Big Eight titles on floor exercise, parallel bars and in the all-around
- Four-time Big Eight Champion and an All-American (still rings) in 1967
- Served as President of USA Gymnastics (1983-94), Jacki was also on the United States Olympic Committee's Board of Directors (1984-92)
- Nationally recognized gymnastics judge, Jacki scored seven NCAA Championships
- Inducted into the United States Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 2004



Thank you to our generous sponsors and donors who helped us blow past our goal of \$18,000, raising \$66,500 for our scholarship, award and community programs



Fully 46% of every dollar raised is spent on our scholarship and awards programs. Net of Gala and Fundraising expense, 91% is spent on scholarships and awards

