



May 13, 2008

Dear WORLD GYM Members and High School Scholarship Applicants,

Last year was the first year WORLD GYM offered two \$500 Scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from the class of 2007. One scholarship was awarded to a McIntosh High School student and the other to a student at Starr's Mill High School. The scholarship was established in loving memory of one of our most beloved employees, mentor and friend, Ms Gloria Sherman who lost her battle to cancer in February of 2007 at the age of eighty-one. This year, World Gym opened up the applications to ALL graduating seniors in any of the five public Fayette County High Schools. It was our original intent to award three \$500 scholarships to the top applicants no matter which school they attended, but the entries were so outstanding that we awarded FOUR!

I would like to take this time to say *"Thank You"* to the twelve applicants who took part in the application process this year. All entries were simply awesome! I could not be prouder of these young adults and the many accomplishments each has made thus far in his/her life. Our scholarship is not based solely on academics, but also on extracurricular activities, volunteer work helping those less fortunate and the content of two thought provoking essays. I thought you might want to read the two essay questions.

First Essay: "Year after year, we read or hear about the growing epidemic of obesity in our own country. In 500 words or less, write an essay on what you would do to combat this problem in your own school as well as within your community".

Second Essay: "World Gym is honored to offer three \$500 scholarships in loving memory of Ms Gloria Sherman who passed away in February of 2007 at the age of eighty-one. Miss Gloria was a valued member of our World Gym team working in our Membership Department from December 2000 until her battle with cancer began in 2006. She was a dedicated and loyal employee and a respected colleague who seldom missed a day of work with the exception of an occasional vacation. A tremendous asset to our company, she LOVED PEOPLE of all ages and had a passionate and genuine concern for their health and well-being. No matter the person, Miss Gloria always had an interesting story to tell and a wise life lesson to pass along. She encouraged many and inspired young and old with her obvious ability to live life to its fullest. At a time when women were not encouraged to pursue academics and careers, Ms Gloria graduated from college and became a Buyer in New York. She married, had children, out lived three husbands, became a Personal Trainer at the age of seventy-four and for her eightieth birthday, took her first flying lesson and went white water rafting! Yes, Miss Gloria was an inspiration that brought compassion and laughter to us all and it is our wish that the awarding of this scholarship will bring hope and inspiration to you, its recipient! For your last essay of 500 words or less, we would like to know what YOU wish to accomplish in life. How do you want to be remembered?"

Last week, each High School held their Awards Night and I made the announcement that I would be sending all the student essays to Dr. John DeCotis, Superintendent of Fayette County Schools. He is very interested in what the students had to say about the obesity crisis and what changes they would like to see made within their own schools. Hopefully with the suggestions coming from the students themselves, important health and nutritional improvements will be made in breakfast and lunch meal choices as well as in the removal of the high sugar soft drink machines. And who knows, maybe one day SOON, mandatory Physical Exercise will be a part of the everyday school routine for children of all ages and basic health and nutrition classes will be taught for more than just six or nine weeks during a twelve year period. Many of our children and young adults just do NOT know or understand basic nutrition and they grow up to be adults who don't know it either...thus the endless cycle of growing obesity for all ages. It is time we all took a more active role in promoting a healthier lifestyle to our young people! We must all lead by example and demand more out of our public school systems.

Ok, back to the scholarship...The recipients of the ***"2008 Gloria Sherman Memorial Scholarship"*** presented by WORLD GYM are...

Whitney Daniel from WhiteWater High School

Sean Noah & Elizabeth Craig Kleimeyer from McIntosh High School

Amy Evans from Fayette County High School

Thank you again to all the students who took the time to enter this year. I look forward to reading twice as many entries next year from the class of 2009! And on behalf of the entire WORLD GYM staff, may you all have a terrific summer vacation. We hope to see you all working out in one of our three locations here in Fayette County!

Sincerely,

Kim Hershey
General Manager
WORLD GYM – Fayette County
770-692-2676 Office
kimh@worldgymfayette.com

LIVE HEALTHY, PLAY HARD AND LOVE LIFE!