

## NEWS RELEASE



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## **Junior Achievement Raises \$164,761 at 34<sup>TH</sup> Annual JA Bowl-A-Thon** *Funds used to support financial literacy, work readiness programs in WNY schools*



*Pictured above are (R-L) Laura Dolan of Bank America, JA students Kara Sztaba, Haley Travers, Jacob Wood, Tyler Sacco, Tien Nguyen from West Seneca Central Schools.*

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** – Junior Achievement of Western New York (JA) announced that it raised \$164,467 from its 34th Annual JA Bowl-A-Thon, WNY’s largest bowling fundraiser. A total of 1,460 participants representing 56 local companies bowled and raised funds for JA financial literacy, career & work readiness, and entrepreneurship programs taught by volunteers in WNY schools.

The total amount raised was announced at a press conference on May 16, 2018 at Tully’s Good Times Restaurant, a gold sponsor of the event. Laura Dolan of Bank America, the event’s title

sponsor, Tully Turtle, Tully's Good Times' mascot, and JA students from West Seneca Central Schools unveiled the grand total.

The top five fundraising companies were also announced: Tops Friendly Markets with \$16,869 led by coordinators Joanne Probst and Lauren Smith, followed by Independent Health with \$15,547 led by coordinators Heather Sullivan & Mary Maisano, National Fuel with \$11,816 led by coordinator Josh Torrance, KeyBank with \$8,647 led by coordinators Gail Lattimore, Yezenia Kren-Colon and Steve Pease, and Lawley with \$5,515 led by coordinator Beth Bauman. Top new fundraising company with \$1,639 raised is Northwest Bank led by Katie Couch and Ashely Desmond. Most improved fundraising companies are Perry's Ice Cream led by Amy Engler and Steve Helms as well as GEICO led by Nicole Becker.

Lauren Smith of Tops Friendly Markets was recognized as the event's top individual fundraiser for raising \$3,543, qualifying for two round trip tickets courtesy of Delta Air Lines. Runner up for top individual fundraiser was Jere Reed of Independent Health, who raised \$2,156 and received a Family Experience package with four Water Bikes of Buffalo tickets, four Sky High Adventure Park aerial tickets along with an overnight stay from Buffalo Lodging. The top fundraising team, "Bowl Us Over or Strike Us Down" led by Lauren Smith of Tops Friendly Markets, raised a total of \$3,543 and will enjoy a Buffalo Bisons baseball game in a luxury suite.

"Thanks to the support of generous sponsors, dedicated board members, and outstanding company coordinators, the 2018 JA Bowl-A-Thon remains Western New York's largest bowling fundraiser!" said JA Board Member Cheryl Byrne.

Next year's JA Bowl-A-Thon events, presented by Title Sponsor, Bank of America, will take place on March 2 and March 9, 2019. For information on the JA Bowl-A-Thon, visit [www.jawnybowlathon.org](http://www.jawnybowlathon.org), or contact Tammy Bixby, Events Manager, at [tbixby@jawny.org](mailto:tbixby@jawny.org) or 716-853-1381, ext. 210.

### **About Junior Achievement of Western New York**

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade about financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career & work readiness through experiential, hands-on programs. For the 2017-2018 school year, Junior Achievement of WNY estimates to reach the lives of over 15,000 students throughout the eight counties of Western New York. JA's success is due to its many generous supporters and more than 500 volunteers. For more information about Junior Achievement and how you can make a difference in a child's life, visit our Web site at [www.jawny.org](http://www.jawny.org), follow us on Twitter at [@JAofWNY](https://twitter.com/JAofWNY), or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/jaofwny](https://www.facebook.com/jaofwny).