

## NEWS RELEASE



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## **Junior Achievement Raises \$174,711 at 35<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, Kelly Gregoire, Claire Lewis, Danner Leyonmark and Nevada Pohlman from Hamburg High School along with JA President, Laurie Mahoney.*

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** – Junior Achievement of Western New York (JA) announced that it raised a record-breaking \$174,711 from its 35th Annual JA Bowl-A-Thon, WNY’s largest bowling fundraiser. A total of 1,420 participants representing 64 local companies bowled and raised funds

for JA's 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 15, 2019 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 Hamburg High School unveiled the grand total.

The top five fundraising companies were also announced: Tops Friendly Markets with \$17,006 led by coordinators Joanne Probst and Lauren Smith, followed by National Fuel with \$12,876 led by coordinator Alex Lent. Independent Health with \$12,568 led by coordinators Heather Sullivan & Mary Maisano, KeyBank with \$7,048 led by coordinators Gail Lattimore and Yezenia Kren-Colon, and Lawley with \$6,569 led by coordinator Beth Bauman. Top new fundraising company with \$1,945 raised is Alcott HR led by Liz Schucht. Most improved fundraising company is Citizens Bank led by Christina Quinn and Ricky Scott.

Lauren Smith of Tops Friendly Markets was recognized as the event's top individual fundraiser for raising \$4,031 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 \$2,334. Third place was Alex Lent of National Fuel with \$1,984 raised. The top fundraising team, "B-City Bowlers" of Tops Friendly Markets, raised a total of \$4,416 and will enjoy a Buffalo Bisons baseball game in a luxury suite. Runner up team was "Splits & Misses of Independent Health with \$3,263 raised and in third place was team "The Bowling Stones" of Lawley with \$2,465 raised for JA students.

"Thanks to the support of generous sponsors, dedicated board members, and outstanding company coordinators, the 2019 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 7 and March 14, 2020. 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 2018-2019 school year, Junior Achievement of WNY estimates to reach the lives of over 15,700 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).