

## Home away from home

The Y has been my home away from home for gymnastics since I was 3 years old. I started out in beginner and worked my way up to Level 6. When I reached 8 years old, I really started getting to know what higher levels were. Giants, kips, flyaways and more became part of my everyday language; I started to get the feel of it. When I was invited into a program called "Showtime," I knew I wanted to pursue my dream of becoming a gymnast. The sports I loved, such as soccer, were dropped because I loved going to the Y for gymnastics. I knew that the higher level girls had to leave because of the space issue. These girls loved the Y like me but they had no choice but to leave to follow their dreams. With a recent injury keeping me away from the gym, my friends, and the wonderful coaches, I've been thinking and have begun to appreciate what opportunities the Y has given me. I'm getting to the age of beginning harder tricks and when I want to start those I might have no choice but to leave. Please give me and other gymnasts the opportunity to stay with the best program there is. Make Mahackeno happen!

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