

Springfield club big winners at Anytime Fitness annual conference

Colleen Braun of Sleepy Eye and Teri Kratz of Comfrey were two of the biggest winners at the 3rd annual Anytime Fitness national conference in Midway, Utah two weeks ago.

Braun, who opened an Anytime Fitness club in Springfield in April of 2006, was named Honorary Club Operator of the Year. "It's an amazing honor for Colleen," said Anytime Fitness national media director Mark Daly. "We currently have more than 450 clubs open in 46 different states and Colleen was honored as the 2nd best club operator in the entire country. She should be very proud."

Kratz, meanwhile, was named one of the top three Member Success Stories in the country by Anytime Fitness. "Teri showed amazing commitment," said Daly. "She's a busy wife and mother of 4 children, and yet she somehow found a way to turn her life around by working out at the Anytime Fitness club in Springfield 127 nights in a row."

A videotape depicting Braun, Kratz, and other members of the Springfield Anytime Fitness club was shown to approximately 400 conference attendees during the closing night awards ceremony. Audience members wiped tears from their eyes as Kratz told an emotional story about not being able to play with her daughter because she didn't fit into a swing last year. Later, the audience laughed when they heard Braun say that Kratz is now "half the woman she used to be."

Braun was named Honorary Club Operator of the Year after a lengthy application and review process. In addition to financial and written records, Braun was required to submit letters of support from club members and local community leaders. "The fact that she has more than 500 members," Daly said, "in a community with a population of around 2,000 is simply unheard of. Clearly, Colleen is doing a lot of things right."

Kratz says when she first started working out at Anytime Fitness she could barely walk ten minutes at a time on a treadmill machine. Now, she runs – and wins – 5K races. She's learned so much about fitness, in fact, that she's become certified as a personal trainer and helps others achieve their fitness goals. "Teri is one of the shining stars of the Anytime Fitness family," said Daly. "Her story is truly an inspiration to others."

In addition to attending seminars, dinners and award ceremonies, Braun and Kratz enjoyed their time at the Zermatt Resort in Utah by participating in several "extra-curricular" activities. It was a fun and rewarding trip for both women.

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