

## Costco International Photo Contest

# 2010 Winners

THIS YEAR'S COSTCO International Photo Contest asked members to "Give us your best shot." And that's exactly what they did, sending in 45,000 entries, the most in the contest's 15-year history. Entries came from the seven countries in which Costco operates, and the shots reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of those regions. We'd like to thank the photographers, Costco Photo Center, our sponsors—Your Photo on Canvas and Panasonic Lumix Digital Cameras—and the judges, experienced photographers, photo industry execs and writers including Carlene Canton, Jennifer Coulston, John Doe, Chris Fox, Pat Hackett and Elayne Rogers, who made the contest possible.



**International Grand Prize Winner ▲**  
**Neal Moran, St. Helens, Merseyside, United Kingdom**

### Tutu, too

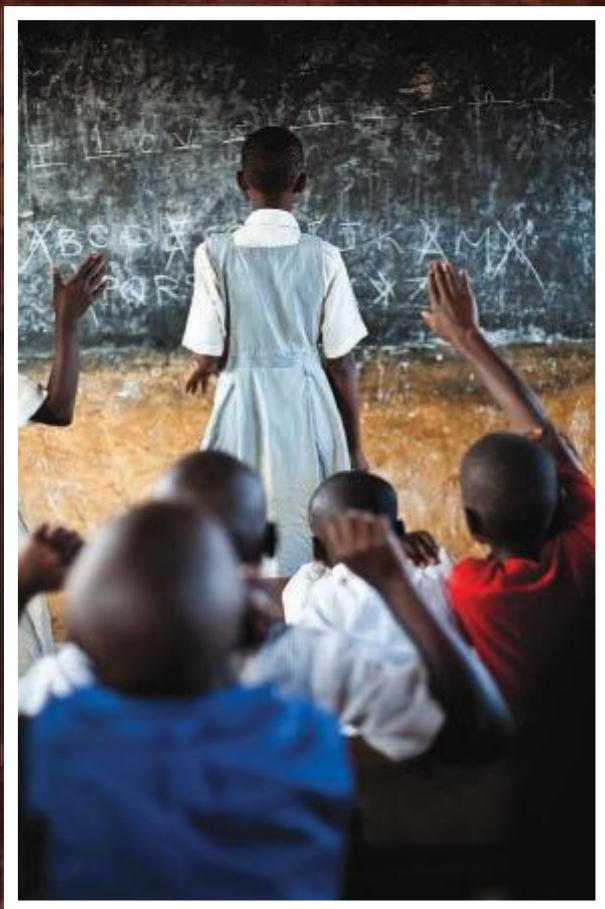
"As you can imagine, I am over the moon at winning this prize," says International Grand Prize winner Neal Moran. Moran, a graphic designer, snapped this winning shot of his 4-year-old daughter, Freya, prior to her first stage performance with her dance school. "She looked so cute in her tutu. I just had to mark the moment with a couple shots," says Moran, who has dabbled in photography over the years, but really caught the bug when digital arrived.

Moran used a Canon EOS400d for the shot, which he says was really not set up, but more of an impulse shoot at home. "I thought it was a strong image between the red and the black, and the serious look on her face," he says. "To me it shows just what can be achieved in and around your own home and not having to spend lots on backdrops."

For his International Grand Prize, Moran received a Costco Cash card with a value of \$2,500. —*T. Foster Jones*







**First Place Winner, U.S. ◀**  
**Nick Stentzel, Orange, California**

## Class act

Last year, Costco member Nick Stentzel was shooting a documentary film in Uganda when he visited a school in the town of Lugazi. "Someone had just taught the kids how to play the game Hangman. Everyone was laughing and having a great time," says the 27-year-old, who has a B.A. in photography and is studying film directing at Chapman University. "The light in the classroom was beautiful," he continues. "I got caught up in the excitement, grabbed my camera and started shooting."

Stentzel, whose studies have taken him around the world, attributes his love of photography to his restless nature: "I can capture something unique and share a little bit of the amazing places I travel to with the people I love."

Stentzel will receive a \$1,500 Costco Cash card for his first-place photo.—*TFJ*



**Second Place Winner, U.S. ▶**  
**Quynh Nguyen, Santa Cruz, California**

## Bedtime stories

Quynh Nguyen has taken thousands of pictures of her daughter, Jodie, but this shot is one of her favorites. It was taken in 2009 during the family's first camping trip, when Jodie was 3 years old.

"We had a reading-before-bedtime routine and still do. And so Mike, my husband, brought Jodie's favorite book on this trip just for that," says Nguyen. "The lighting was perfect and the moment was cozy and truly sentimental."

The photo earned her a \$1,000 Costco Cash card second-place award in this year's contest—and much more. "This win has boosted my confidence to officially start my own child and family photography business [[www.qnn-photography.com](http://www.qnn-photography.com)]!" reports Nguyen.—*Tim Talevich*

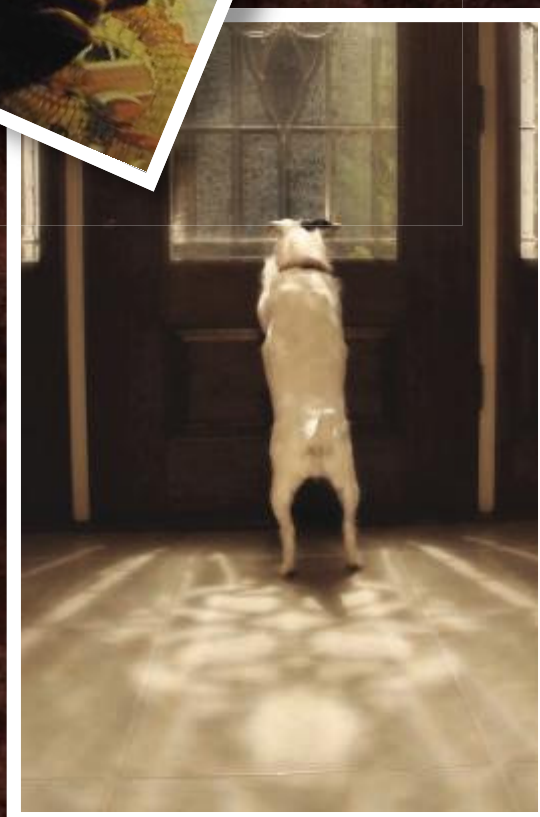
**Third Place Winner, U.S. ▶**  
**Kim Crisler, Austin, Texas**

## A dog's tale

"The dog always inspires the shot," says Kim Crisler, something that is evident from her business, which sells self-designed dog-related greeting cards and other merchandise ([www.giftyidea.com](http://www.giftyidea.com)).

Crisler's photo of her own dog, Lucy, by her front door, was taken at night. "It was taking forever for the camera to take the picture because it was so dark," she recalls. As to how she got Lucy to be so patient, Crisler says, "I can get her to do anything. She's really smart."

She says photography is just a hobby now, but she's working on getting better at it. "It took me about a year to read the manual," says Crisler, who put her \$500 Costco Cash card prize toward her business, "and it actually does make a difference."—*Steve Fisher*





## International First Place Winners



Jean-Yves Ferreault, Japan



Chih-Ching Chang, Taiwan



Jinhee Lee, Korea

## United States Honorable Mentions



Jayme Schlais, Seatac, Washington





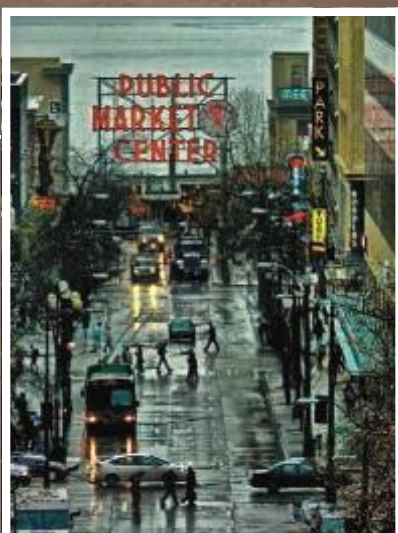
**Steven Riffel, Canada**



**Andrew Todd, United Kingdom**



**Mateos Ortiz, Mexico**



**Donna Kolstead  
Camano Island, Washington**



**Yelena Moore  
Wilbur, Washington**



**Rex Steyskal  
Warren, Michigan**