

Local man organizes youth outing

By Brian Day, Staff Writer

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La Verne resident Joel Beezy organized the largest children's event ever carried out by the South Hills Kiwanis Club last month, treating nearly 450 area youths to a free Los Angeles Clippers game.

The event was organized by Beezy and funded by the Donald T. Sterling Charitable Foundation and the Herb and Kay Hafif Foundation in Claremont.

Children from Key Clubs at Covina high schools, the Circle K Club at Mount San Antonio College, the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona, the Masonic Home for Children, the San Gabriel Children's Center, AYSO Soccer in Ontario and other youth-oriented groups were invited to attend, Beezy said.

"What makes this important to me is it has a positive impact on the children," Beezy said. "There are some really good kids in the Covina-Pomona area."

For many of the children who attended, it was their first basketball game or their first trip to Los Angeles.

Beezy said the endeavor was only made possible

through the cooperation of many individuals and groups.

"What I've been doing is coordinating between various charities and various organizations," Beezy said.

The Donald T. Sterling Charitable Foundation, run by Clippers owner and president Donald Sterling, provided the tickets to the game free of charge, Beezy said. The Herb and Kay Hafif Foundation funded all additional costs, including the cost of the buses to transport the kids.

"The underlying message of Kiwanis International is serving children of the world one child at a time, and this evening was in keeping with that philosophy," Beezy said.

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