

IF YOU EVER WONDERED WHY YOU JOINED KIWANIS,  
COME TO THE SPECIAL GAMES, AND YOU WILL FIND OUT

### Kiwanis Special Games

In Cupertino, Calif. {see pg. 16 for story}



#### DIVISION 19

**HERMOSA BEACH:** Here's a fundraiser that has been successful. The Kiwanis Club will host its Sixth Annual Taste at the Beach Wine and Food Extravaganza from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21 at the Hermosa Beach Community Center. The event,



#### DIVISION 25 (PHOTO ABOVE)

**CHATSWORTH:** Members of the Kiwanis Club, along with Key Club volunteers, picked and cleaned about 300 pounds of oranges from their neighbors' yards during the Citrus Sunday service project on May 15. The fruit was donated to

month-long project ended April 29. Pearl Harbor club members also recycle diligently, and some even compost their kitchen waste.

#### DIVISION 29

**DIVISIONWIDE:** All nine

### Harvesting fresh fruit in Chatsworth to give to local food banks

exterior doors to the building, built new table-and-chair racks then stacked all the tables and chairs on them, replaced the tread on a 10-foot-by-40-foot creek crossing foot bridge and repaired the supports, split and stacked four cords of wood, primed and painted all the bare wood that was used in the construction portion, cleaned up and enjoyed a barbecued lunch.

#### DIVISION 30

over five years to the Children's Hospital of Orange County Foundation for the naming rights of a new Child Life Workroom.

The new workroom will be located in a new 7-story CHOC tower and will be a place for a Child Life Specialist to work.

The Kiwanis Club of Cypress became the first club in Region 3 to donate funds toward the project with a





Elliott Burr/Los Altos Town Crier

## A day of special attention

Kiwanis Special Games brings smiles, confidence to participants

By **TRACI HATLING**  
Los Altos Kiwanis Club

Local Kiwanis clubs, including the Kiwanis Club of Los Altos, hosted the annual Kiwanis Special Games May 20 at De Anza College in Cupertino.

About 850 student athletes with special needs gathered at De Anza's track to participate in the 33rd annual games. More than 140 buses delivered students from 70 different schools.

The Kiwanis games fill a physical and emotional need for the substantial number of challenged children in Santa Clara County schools. More broadly known programs like the Special Olympics require a higher level of function for its athletes—the Special Games accepts everyone.

"They are athletes, and at the center of attention through positive achievement," said Special Games co-

director and Los Altos Kiwanian Peter Bergsman. "For many of these kids, the Special Games is their favorite day of the year."

Mountain View resident Denise Lochtefeld's son Kevin, a student in Mountain View High School's Special Day Class, has attended the games for years. "Kevin is moderately to severely autistic," she said. "He doesn't get to do everything a typical young man gets to do. At the Special Games, there is no judgment—he is with his peers."

The games open with a formal ceremony and a Parade of Athletes, adding pomp and ceremony to the event.

"The students love to walk during the parade and show off their class pride," said Diane Corbett, Special Day class teacher at Mountain View High. "The games provide a sense of belonging."

"Most of their daily lives are controlled by their disabilities," Bergsman said. "The Special Games is a day to celebrate these students' abilities."

All athletes received first-, second- or third-place or best-effort ribbons for each event. Approximately 4,000 ribbons were awarded.

The late Los Altos Kiwanian Walter D. Chronert launched the Kiwanis Special Games in 1979. The Los Altos and the De Anza clubs, with the aid of other local Kiwanians and student-affiliated groups, continue to sponsor the special games every May.

The games take thousands of hours to plan. On the day of the event, more than 1,000 Kiwanis, community and Key Club volunteers staffed the games.

For more information and photos, visit [www.k-sg.org](http://www.k-sg.org).

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Division 42

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