

Float to the Finish Line

A rubber duck race on Castaic Lake will set the scene for the 8th Annual Rubber Ducky Regatta, a family-g geared fundraiser to benefit a nonprofit organization with three health centers that serve under-insured and uninsured patients throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.

Slated for Saturday, October 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – with the duck race starting at 1 p.m. – “the Rubber Ducky Regatta is an event for the whole family,” said Ifsha Buttitta, marketing spokesperson for Samuel Dixon Family Health Centers, Inc. – SDFHC. “People can adopt a rubber duck for \$5 and have their duck race for a chance to win great prizes. It’s fun plus it supports a great local nonprofit – Samuel Dixon Family Health Centers, Inc. – which provides health care for people in the Santa Clarita Valley who are uninsured or underinsured.”

Now entering its eighth year, the Rubber Ducky Regatta has taken place at Castaic Lake for the past three years.

“Initially our Fundraising Committee settled on having the Rubber Ducky as a fundraiser at the elegant home of a local Santa Clarita family and it worked very well,” explained Cheryl Lamon, SDFHC executive director. “After five to six years we all realized that we could not allow the event to increase in size and that we needed to look at other locations in order to provide for more participation...this is what led us to consider and ultimately decide that Castaic Lake would be a

great location for our event. Coupled with the support we receive from the Park staff at the Lake – especially Park Superintendent Lori Bennett – and the support we received from Supervisor Michael Antonovich, it was decided this should be the home of the Rubber Ducky Regatta.”

Designed for all ages, the event welcomes families to spend a day at the lake while enjoying vendor booths and activities.

“Each year SDFHC awards a trip as the grand prize for this event,” Buttitta said. “This year’s grand prize is a seven-day cruise from Princess Cruises. Imagine purchasing a rubber duck for \$5 and it ends up being the winning duck of a prize like that!”

Additionally, “we are excited that Sandra Mitchell, KCAL/CBS news anchor who lives in Santa Clarita, will again serve as the event’s celebrity guest/host for the second time.”

All proceeds from the event will go toward patient care at SDFHC, which offers affordable, quality primary health care for residents of the Santa Clarita Valley. SDFHC operates three health centers in the Santa Clarita Valley—Canyon Country Health Center, Val Verde Health Center and Newhall Health Center—as well as outreach sites at College of the Canyons and California Institute of the Arts. SDFHC offers a full range of health care services—physicals, immunizations and vaccines, screenings and diagnostic tests, well baby care and family planning—to those who may not seek health care elsewhere.

“SDFHC is the Santa Clarita Valley’s community health center,” Buttitta emphasized. “At a time when many people are losing their jobs and/



or health insurance, SDFHC’s role in the community has never been more important.”

The mission of Samuel Dixon Family Health Centers, Inc. is to enhance wellness by providing quality outpatient health care services and programs, health education, community resources and referrals. We want to ensure that all of our friends and neighbors have access to affordable, quality primary care. We make a special effort to serve the uninsured and underinsured.

“By supporting the Rubber Ducky Regatta, which is SDFHC’s biggest fundraiser of the year, people are supporting the provision of health care for all in their community,” said Buttitta, further noting that last year’s event raised more than \$60,000 that went directly toward patient care at the three health centers.

“This is an event that does not cost a lot of money – anyone can afford to buy a \$5 duck,” Buttitta said. “It’s fun for the whole family while at the same time supporting the great cause of health care services from SDFHC...at the lake, there is plenty of opportunity for everyone to see the regatta and there is plenty to do for the family.”

For more information, call 661.257.2339 ext. 302; or visit www.sdfhc.org.

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