



For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Daniella Elghanayan/Chris Davis
805/687-3322

Event Information/Tickets: Ali Barker, 805/884-8604

“Surfin’ Santa Barbara” to Benefit Hospice of Santa Barbara’s I Have a Friend® program

Mentor Program Helps Children Who Experienced the Loss of a Parent or Sibling

March 30, 2009, Santa Barbara, CA--- The Santa Barbara Association of REALTORS® is proud to announce its 22nd Annual Casino Night Fundraiser, **“Surfin’ Santa Barbara,”** a fantastic festivity that will benefit Hospice of Santa Barbara’s I Have a Friend® Mentor Program, on **Friday, April 24th from 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.** at the Maritime Museum in Santa Barbara.

The Hawaiian-theme event will feature dinner by Cliff’s & Co., fabulous drinks, dancing, music from DJ Tru, a live auction, gaming tables, raffle prizes, and Master of Ceremonies Steve Epstein.

Auction items include a one-week stay in the French Riviera, surfing lessons for four, a beautiful Firewire surfboard, a painting by master artist Mary Heebner, and more!

“Surfin’ Santa Barbara” will benefit Hospice of Santa Barbara’s I Have a Friend® program, a program that matches children who have recently lost a parent or sibling with adult mentors who experienced a similar loss as a child. The mentors are living proof for the children that, despite their loss, they too can grow to be successful adults.

“We are honored that the Association has chosen our special program as the beneficiary of this extraordinary event” said Joy Janssen, Children & Family Services Program Manager at Hospice of Santa Barbara. “Our mentors play a key role in providing these children with the help they need to learn that they can feel happy and normal again.”

This fundraiser will provide our community with the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of some very special children and their families.

Tickets to the event are \$50, which includes dinner and some Lucky Bucks. **For tickets or more information, please call Ali Barker at 884-8604 or e-mail abarker@sbaor.com.** All proceeds will be donated to the I Have a Friend® program at Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. – A Volunteer Hospice Organization.

If you have a child who's recently suffered the loss of a parent or sibling, or if you're interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. at (805) 563-8820.

The mission of Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. – A Volunteer Hospice Organization is to provide care to anyone experiencing the impact of a life-threatening illness, or grieving the death of a loved one.

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