

14th annual Kids Walk in Loma Linda draws hundreds

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LOMA LINDA >> A sea of yellow and blue flooded Barton Road Sunday morning, as hundreds participated in the 14th annual Kids Walk sponsored by the Childhood Cancer Foundation.

The walk — which began at the organization’s Loma Linda office Mountain View Avenue and ended at Loma Linda University Medical Center — paid tribute to children who have died, survived or who are going through cancer-related treatments.

The walk lasted about a mile and was attended by all ages.

Some 300 pre-registered for the event, while more than 100 registered Sunday morning, said Armida Kersey, executive director for the Childhood Cancer Foundation.

Many in attendance wielded signs as they walked the route, which drew honks of support from those driving by.

Inside the area hospital, groups were ushered onto a stage next to a banner advertising the event where they were able to pose for photos to take home.

“Fighting cancer is not a one-person disease and mom and dad — it’s a whole group that is involved when a child is diagnosed,” Kersey said.

Tino Calderon of Fontana can attest to Kersey’s comment.

He and a handful of supporters were out with “Team Katelynn” banners and T-shirts to support the 6-year-old family survivor and cancer survivor.

About 750 families work with the Childhood Cancer Foundation from throughout the Inland Empire.

Kersey’s job is to create a network of support for families going through the motions — something she has personally witnessed herself when her son was diagnosed with cancer in 1984.

He is now 38 and volunteered his time to support Sunday’s event, she said.

Games, raffles and food followed the walk, which raised money for the non-profit.

Funds will be used to pay for birthday and holiday gifts for children with cancer, as well as gasoline vouchers and money for groceries, organizers said.

Sponsors of Sunday’s walk included Beaver Medical Group and the Loma Linda University Cancer Center.

To learn more, visit ccfsocal.org.