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Game day offers three-way fun to benefit ill kids

When Don Perchlak and Brian Haas dive into helping charities, they dive in headfirst. The duo has scheduled not one, but three, fundraisers for Sept. 17. Proceed recipients will be Steven's Hope in Upland and the **Let It Be Foundation** of Chino. Both organizations involve helping families facing difficult challenges because they have children with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses.

The men will start the day with a nine-hole golf tournament at Sierra Lakes Golf Club in Fontana. Then it's off to Dave & Buster's at Ontario Mills for competitive darts. They plan to finish the whirlwind day with a billiards tournament. Lunch is included. And two great nonprofit groups will benefit from each \$125 entry fee.

This is the second year the two men have planned a fundraiser. They hoped to raise \$5,000 and ended up raising \$12,000 last year. The money went to help LeRoy Haynes Family Center in La Verne.

This time around the planning is a bit easier, they said, but they're hoping people will come out and support the event, called Game Day. You don't have to be an expert golfer or be able to run a rapid multikilometer run. All you have to do is have fun.

"We also wanted this to be affordable. Some of these fundraising events are great, but they cost. We figured everyone could afford \$125 for a day of fun and helping out two organizations that could use the help," said Perchlak, an Alta Loma resident and owner of Lion Press Printing and Promotional.

Sponsors are welcome in addition to players. And the event could use donated items for raffles. Foothill Vacuum and Janitorial in Upland is a title sponsor. The men hope the community rallies behind this.

Haas lived in Colorado before moving to Upland. He helped initiate a fundraising Game Day there, but that one included bowling instead of darts.

"The idea was to plan something where people would want to come out and have fun. It would be a good way to meet people and raise money for someone who needed it," said Haas, who grew up in the Midwest and loved the small-town feeling so many Midwesterners display. He owns Haas Landscape. This fundraiser is designed to bring a little of that small-town feeling to the Inland Valley - and to raise a lot of money for good causes.

"We have it pretty good, and it was time for us to give back. We found out about Steven's Hope and The **Let It Be Foundation**, and we liked what they are doing. We've also met some of the families involved with The **Let It Be Foundation** and heard their stories," Perchlak said. "All I know is that I don't think any child should have a bad day growing up, not such bad days as some of these children go through."

Haas said a couple of people in his family have died from cancer, but none of them were children.

"It isn't easy and I admire the strong people associated with both," he said.

Steven's Hope volunteers work to provide housing and other necessities to families who have seriously ill or injured children. It was begun by parents Tony and Sandy Cappelli in memory of their son, Steven, who died shortly after birth.

The **Let It Be Foundation** was started by Ruthe and Michael Rosen in loving memory of their teenage daughter Karla Asch-Rosen, who died of inoperable brain cancer.

The organization helps individuals, ages 2 to 17, who have been referred to it. Those seeking help must be Chino Valley residents.

Now is the time to step up and show those involved with this endeavor. Sign up for the event is to contact Steven's Hope in Upland at 866-3-STEVEN.