

Chino Hills Champion (CA)

Dance aims to give ailing student hope

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The dance team at Chino Hills High will host its third annual Dance of Hope at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 29 and 30, at the school. This year's dance will benefit Ruby Rodriguez, a Don Lugo High senior, who has cancer of the soft tissues, and lost two-thirds of a lung in late December when doctors removed a cancerous tumor between her lung and heart. Ruby was initially diagnosed with cancer in October 2003 when doctors found cancer in the soft tissues near the upper bone of her left arm. They removed the cancer, nearby muscle and the bone, which was replaced with a metal rod. She had been in remission three years when the cancer returned last summer.

Schools Superintendent Ed Heatley recommended Ruby for the benefit dance, according to Penny Rodela, who is providing publicity for the event.

Preston Carr, principal at Don Lugo; Danielle Maldonado, Chino Hills High dance director; and Ruthe Rosen of the **Let It Be Foundation** went to Ruby's Chino home to inform her that she would **be** the recipient of the fundraiser.

Chino Hills High Dance Team will donate 100 percent of the gate profits to Ruby and her family. The **Let It Be Foundation** will provide Ruby with an outfit and a salon makeover on the days of the event. She said she plans to attend.

Tickets are \$7 per person. Information: Penny Rodela at 597-7260.

Among the dance teams scheduled to perform are: Chino Hills High, Townsend Junior High of Chino Hills, Don Lugo High of Chino, Dellos Dance & Performing Arts Studios in the Walnut/Diamond Bar area, All That Dance Studio in Chino Hills and Talent Factory in Chino. Several Chino Hills city and school district officials are expected to attend the event.

Ruby Rodriguez

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