



Perris Press Release

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March for Babies Fundraiser Scheduled for Saturday, October 22

The City of Perris' March for Babies Relay, the top fundraising effort of its kind in California the last two years, will take place Oct. 22 at Foss Field Park near the City Hall Campus.

Perris City Councilwoman Rita Rogers, who also is a division chair for the March of Dimes, is once again leading the City's March for Babies Relay. During an organizational meeting last week at City Hall, Rogers expressed confidence that the City will continue its outstanding support for the March of Dimes.

"The whole fabric of the community gets behind this important event," Rogers said. "We get a lot of support from the churches, businesses, schools and the City."

This year's teams include squads from the Perris Police and Perris Fire departments, Rio Ranch Market, Lowe's, Tri-Lake Consultants Inc., Perris High School, City of Miracles Church, First Baptist Church and the City of Perris. Each team commits to raising at least \$1,500 for March of Dimes.

The City of Perris raised \$21,000 in its March for Babies Relay in 2010. Rogers said she hopes to raise \$25,000 this year.

Rogers said March of Dimes started out in 1938 as an organization committed to fighting polio. When that scourge was wiped out in the U.S. with the introduction of the Salk vaccine, March of Dimes began targeting premature births and its associated defects. One in eight children are born prematurely and 78 die each day in the U.S.

March of Dimes has spent \$75 million on research to determine the cause of premature births and find ways to prevent them, Rogers said. She said that premature births have been reduced in recent years, adding "we are moving in the right direction."

Several students from Perris High School attended the recent organizing session. Senior Rosa Ramirez, 17, is part of the school's Link Crew, a group of upper classmen who mentor younger students. Also attending the meeting were Link Crew advisor Anglina Osuna, fellow members Ruth Nunez and Liset Lagunas and Perris High School graduate Anikh Wadhawan.

Ramirez said the student group would organize a team to walk around Foss Field Park to raise money for March of Dimes and would encourage other Perris High School students and teachers to also organize.

"It is important to help our community prosper," she said. "We want to make a difference."
Perris Mayor Daryl Busch is chairman of this year's March for Babies Relay. The Perris March For Babies Relay takes place Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Additional information: 951-341-0903, 1-888-4-BABIES or mbrelay@marchofdimes.com



Perris City Councilwoman Rita Rogers (second from left) is flanked by Perris High School students from the campus' "Link Crew."



Perris High School Senior Rosa Ramirez will take place in the upcoming March for Babies Relay: "It is important to help our community prosper."