

# Hiruko center of Los Altos raises funds to promote safety, well-being

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Photo Courtesy Of Natalia Gabrea Tejada

Denise Denny of Los Altos, right, helps Justin Poist of Sunnyvale at the Kicks and Touches station at Hirukos Power and Fun Under the Sun event.

Los Altos-based Hiruko, a martial arts and fitness center at Loyola Corners, hosted the second annual Power and Fun Under the Sun event at Palo Alto's Juana Briones Elementary School May 30, raising approximately \$5,000 for Kidpower International.

Los Altos had more representatives than any other city at the fundraiser, approximately half of the estimated 200 visitors and volunteers, according to Denlin Doty, outreach coordinator for Kidpower Teenpower Fullpower International, a non-profit organization that promotes personal safety skills through workshops, publications and training.

This year's Power and Fun Under the Sun featured martial arts demonstrations, drawings for prizes and activities such as yoga, meditation, obstacle courses and nutrition education.

According to Natalia Gabrea Tejada, executive director, instructor and co-founder of Hiruko, Kidpower and Hiruko share similar missions.

Hiruko strives to help families make well-being a priority, said Gabrea Tejada, who added that children's well-being is a combination of physical health, emotional balance, social empowerment and self-confidence.

Doty said the Kidpower-Hiruko collaboration was a natural connection, given that families that practice at Hiruko participate not only in the martial arts, but also in activities that build character and promote helping others.

Hiruko has been an extension of Kidpower since 2008, serving communities in the South Bay and Silicon Valley.

As one of seven California offices working under the auspices of Kidpower's

Regional Center in Santa Cruz, Hiruko donates space to Kidpower for its public workshops and classes but operates as a separate entity, offering martial arts programs and various fitness classes for youth and adults.

For more information on Hiruko, visit [www.hirukocenter.com](http://www.hirukocenter.com) or call 949-1233.

For more information on Kidpower, visit [www.kidpower.org](http://www.kidpower.org) or call (800) 467-6997.