



Article inspires brothers to raise money for 1736 Family Crisis Center

Daily Breeze

By Denise Nix Staff Writer

Posted: 09/03/2009 04:55:22 PM PDT

Copyright 2008, Los Angeles Newspaper Group



Brothers Austin Lowi, left, and Alec Lowi are working to help 1736 Family Crisis Center, a private, nonprofit organization helping victims of abuse and their children, by selling headbands and ties at a lemonade stand near their Rancho Palos Verdes home. (Sean Hiller/Staff Photographer)

Rancho Palos Verdes brothers Austin and Alec Lowi often get newspaper clippings from their mother she thinks they would find interesting.

But on Father's Day, a Daily Breeze article about the 1736 Family Crisis Center did more than catch their attention - it spurred them into action.

The gregarious and giving siblings wanted to help after reading about kids who were just like them - but suffered abusive family lives.

"I just thought that there's kids out there that are miserable and they are not having very good lives, and it would be really great for me to help them have much better lives because everybody deserves to have a really good life," said Alec, an eighth-grader at Miraleste Intermediate School.

Alec, 12, and Austin, 10, contacted 1736, which runs domestic violence shelters in the South Bay and around Los Angeles, and asked what they could do.

Shelly Ross, an outreach and volunteer coordinator for the nonprofit organization, said the boys came in with a lot of questions about the kids helped by 1736, and came up with a few ideas of their own.

"I just thought they were such great kids and had so much passion," Ross added.

The boys bought a headband at the 1736 office in Torrance, which also sells neckties as part of the organization's Project Halo fundraising campaign.



Ties such as these are among the items brothers Austin and Alec Lowi are selling at a lemonade stand near their home to help 1736 Family Crisis Center, a private nonprofit organization helping victims of abuse and their children. (Sean Hiller/Staff Photographer)



The brothers, who had recently sold lemonade from their own stand, asked if they could help raise money for 1736 by selling items decorated by children who live in the group's shelter.

On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Alec and Austin plan to set up shop at Sunset Point Park to sell the headbands, neckties and lemonade, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to 1736.

In addition, Alec, described by his younger brother as a goal-driven "joker," is designing a Web site for Project Halo.

Austin, described by his older brother as an "energetic" guy, is helping to design wristbands that will be sold during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

The boys, who enjoy surfing and science, say their work for the organization is the biggest project that they have ever tackled.

Austin, a fifth-grader at Mira Catalina Elementary School, described having mixed emotions about what he's doing and what he has learned.

"It makes me feel kind of happy because I like to see kids in the world be always happy and not just be miserable all the time," Austin said.

"But it makes me feel a little sad of the kids getting badly treated by their family," he added. "I would hate to see my parents do that to me."

denise.nix@dailybreeze.com

MORE INFORMATION: www.1736fcc.org