

Kids' Korner

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

By Michael Taylor

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you have a great time,
I wish you had more chances to.
When you thought I wasn't looking,
You hugged me in your arms.
When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you praying,
and I knew that there was a God
looking over me.
When you thought I wasn't looking,
I went ahead and looked and I saw
you and I thought,
"What better life could I have
when you thought I wasn't looking?"



Michael Taylor

Michael Taylor, 9, is a fourth grader at Diegueno Country School in RSF.

Rancho Valencia tennis pro Eduardo Sanchez receives 10News Leadership Award

10News honored Rancho Valencia tennis pro Eduardo Sanchez for creating an annual tennis tournament to help raise funds for Empty Cradle, a non-profit organization that provides support for parents who have lost babies to miscarriages, stillbirths or infant deaths.



Eduardo Sanchez

After their first child was stillborn, Sanchez and his wife enlisted the help of the Empty Cradle organization to assist them through their grieving process. Through counseling, education and support groups held by the organization's volunteers, Sanchez and his wife managed to cope with their pain, thus giving them a sense of direction and hope.

When Sanchez learned that the Empty Cradle needed additional funding, he created an annual fundraising tennis tournament, in honor and remembrance of his deceased son, Sean Eduardo Sanchez, to help raise funds to support the group. The annual SES Tennis Pro-Am Tennis Tournament help ensure the program continue to offer help to parents with similar losses. The event is traditionally held on the second or third weekend in September, which is around the same time of year that Sanchez's son was born into heaven.

Sanchez recruits volunteers to help implement the tennis tournament; tennis-playing members who are willing to pay an entrance



Jake Nordstrom, Wendy Nordstrom, Eva Stimson, Eduardo Sanchez receiving his award, Geni Cavitt (Channel 10 News), Nancy Hunter, Mary Martel. Photo/Jon Clark

donation to compete for the championship; tennis pros with tournament experience to help structure the format of the Pro-Am; tennis-playing members who specialize in fundraising events, marketing and media campaigns. He also enlisted the support of his employer, Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa in Rancho Santa Fe, to host the event at its facility. This is an annual commitment for Sanchez. He has just completed the third Annual Fundraising Pro-Am tennis tournament, which was held on Sept. 14-15 and the event raised \$2,000 for Empty Cradle. In addition, Sanchez works diligently to recruit top-level teaching tennis professionals from throughout the U.S and his native country, Mexico. This year, tennis pros from the surrounding San Diego community and Los Angeles participated and, in addition, tennis pros flew in from New York and Mexico City to compete for the title in the fundraising event.

With the contribution of the SES Tennis Tournament, Empty Cradle has been able to serve hundreds of devastated parents with a variety of services: providing literature to parents who are newly bereaved, including information on the grief process; creating memories and resource listings; conducting monthly peer support meetings, and offering individual telephone support with a trained resource parent.

Eduardo Sanchez received the 10News Leadership Award Dec. 5. Watch 10News, Live @ 5 on Thursday, Dec. 20, for the presentation of the award. For more information, please visit www.sestenniscenter.org or www.emptycradle.org

Does your child have work that should be published? Please submit to the Rancho Santa Fe Review!

The work above is the first in the *Rancho Santa Fe Review's* new regular feature titled 'Kids' Korner.'

Every issue we will publish work by a RSF youth, including essays (no longer than 300 words), letters (such as letters to Santa or military personnel), short stories, poems, drawings, cartoons and more.

If you have a child whose work you would like to see published under this feature, please submit the work (and a photo of the child) for consideration to: editor@sdranchcoastnews.com or mail to PO Box 9077, RSF, CA 92067. Items can also be dropped off at our offices, which are located in the Fairbanks Village Plaza (beside the Helen Woodward Animal Center), suite 5-25. Please be sure to include full name of child (as well as grade and school), parent and contact information.



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