



Hermosa Beach

Samburu Project's Walk for Clean Water in Hermosa Beach

by Genie Davis

On April 30, the Samburu Project will hold its 8th annual Walk for Water Pier to Pier Walk in Hermosa Beach. And, for the first time, walkers across the globe will be joining in the fundraiser.

According to Kiki Swanson, director of development and program administration, as local walkers make their way to the Manhattan Beach Pier and back, the Samburu Project is hosting satellite walks. These walks will be held in other California locations such as Malibu and Woodside as well as in major metropolitan areas including Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, New York, Phoenix, San Francisco, Stamford, Conn., and London, England.

"This year, we'll have 13 walks throughout the country and abroad," she relates. "Here in the South Bay as always it will be a special day for us. Our community is heavily involved, with lots of local vendors showing up, and Mira Costa High School has a big presence as well. Students are personally involved in fund-raising for the event."

Mira Costa High School students participate in the project through their Model U.N. class and their instructor Bob Timberlake, who is committed to the event. Swanson herself also encourages student interest.

"I come to the high school and explain the Walk for Water and the project itself. We create shareable fundraising pages for the students participating in the Pier to Pier Walk, so they can send it to family and friends and get sponsors," she said.

The Samburu Project has been working with Mira Costa students for six years, and the students represent an integral part of the fundraiser.

"We think it's a really special event because we are raising money for the women in rural Kenya who have no choice and must walk for water. We have a tent set up with jerry cans like those that women use there to carry water. Seeing them and being able to pick them up makes it easier for participants to relate to the experience of carrying cans that weigh 44 pounds when filled with water," Swanson explains.

The event supports The Samburu Project's goal of providing access to clean water, as well as building awareness of a global safe-water crisis, and the poverty issues created by Kenyan women's long walk for potable water. Samburu women can walk up to 12 miles a day, often forced to rely on water from contaminated sources. The Project works directly with the Samburu community to drill wells providing access to clean drinking water, and have drilled 86 of them to date.



Students walk along The Strand during last year's Walk for Water in Hermosa Beach.

submitted photo

Following the walk, attendees will enjoy a pancake breakfast at American Junkie with entertainment, games, raffle, a silent auction and prizes for the top fundraisers.

For more information, to register for the event, or to donate, visit www.thesamburu-

ruproject.org or call (310) 881-7265.

The walk, which starts at 8 a.m., both begins and ends at American Junkie, located at 68 Pier Ave. in Hermosa Beach.