

street-sweeping and street repair, that many District 2 residents say they didn't think it was feasible. orship next year.

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# 'Walk for AIDS' fundraiser in Santa Cruz takes in \$75,000

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John Laird, director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, says the Walk for AIDS fundraiser yesterday in Santa Cruz earned three local agencies some \$75,000 toward education and client services.

"It was an overwhelming success," said Laird, who joined 1,500 other walkers along the 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) course that started in San Lorenzo Park, wound through downtown and along West Cliff Drive and back. Most walkers took about two hours to complete the course.

Participants represented a cross-section of those who work for agencies serving people living with AIDS, friends and family members of an AIDS patient, those who had lost someone to the disease and people who have been diagnosed HIV positive, a condition that almost always leads to AIDS.

The walk appeared well-organized. Short talks by local officials and representatives from agencies preceded the walk, but they didn't seem short enough to some participants, who began chanting "Let's walk, let's walk" to master of ceremonies Romney Dunbar, of KMST television station. There were plenty of volunteers to sign up participants and, along the way, there were water stops and attendants to keep walkers and traffic moving smoothly.

A few walkers carried signs protesting the billions of dollars spent on defense compared to the

amount spent on AIDS research. Other walkers carried signs on behalf of children, promoting education of young people.

Breck Vandenberghe, development director for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, said 15 percent of the money earned Sunday will go toward expenses. The remaining amount will be divided between Salud Para La Gente in Watsonville, SCAP, Hospice Caring Project and the Monterey County AIDS Project.

Sunday's event was one of three walks to earn money for 37 Northern California agencies serving people with the HIV infection. The other walks were held along Lake Merritt in Oakland and at Stanford University. Overall, the goal was \$1 million; Vandenberghe said accounting is still underway.

Last year, one walk was held in Santa Clara County, and some \$350,000 was collected. Organizers first set an \$850,000 goal for this year, but about two weeks before the walk, raised the figure.

As with other walks, participants took donations from individuals, businesses and clubs. Donations were on a flat-fee basis, and were collected before the walk. Billing donors after an event usually means a 25 percent loss, said David Wright, local walk organizer.

Walkers returned to San Lorenzo Park for an afternoon of music, food and information booths. Vandenberghe, master of ceremonies for the post-walk activities, said the event was low-key and enjoy-

able.

"The music was great, it was perfect weather," he said. "Next year, we'll even do more."