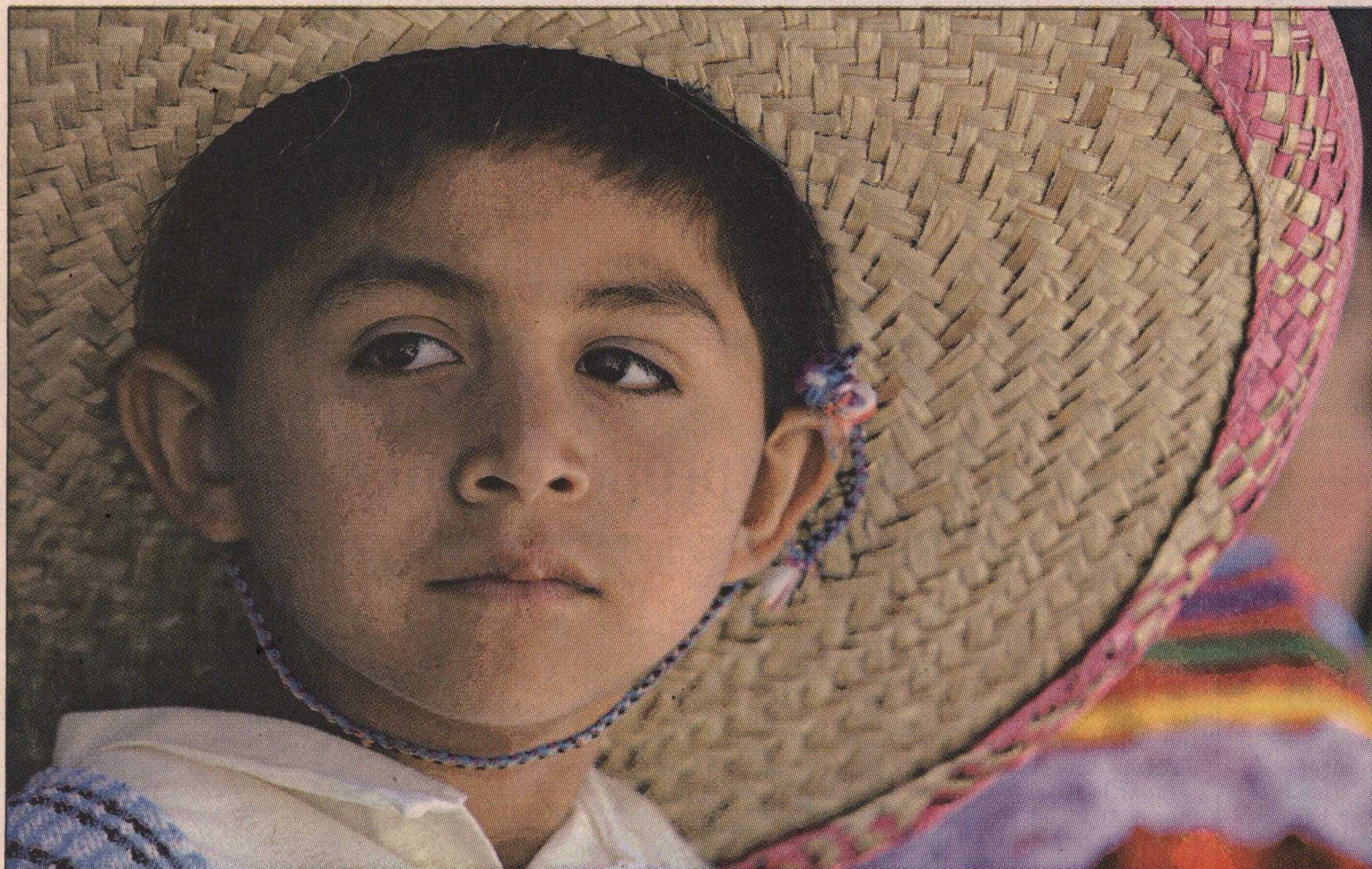


Davenport makes some noise for Cinco de Mayo



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Damien Vazquez keeps an eye on Cinco de Mayo festivities Saturday in Davenport.

Cinco de Mayo
Holidays - Cinco de Mayo

5-6-12

Celebration helps raise funds for nonprofit, needy families

By SHANNA MCCORD

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DAVENPORT — The Cinco de Mayo party in Davenport — booming with drums, rattles and loud chanting — could be heard from Highway 1.

The celebration, held in the yard of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church a couple of blocks from the highway, was the 23rd annual Mexican-style fundraiser for the Davenport Resource Service Center, a nonprofit that offers help for low-income families.

"It's a cultural event and a celebration of Davenport and a fundraiser," said Erika Hearon of the Davenport Resource Service Center. "It's a celebration of Mexican culture and our small-town culture."

The Davenport Resource Service Center expected to raise nearly \$12,000 from the one-day event that draws about 500 people each year to the small coastal town north of Santa Cruz.

The money will be used to support the center's food distribution, teen center, tutoring program and unemployment assistance, Hearon said.

Santa Cruz resident Noemi Galindo watched her 10-year-old daughter Emily Uribe perform a Mexican folklorico dance with other grade-school children dressed in bright-colored cotton dresses.

In addition to her daughter's dance performance, Cinco de Mayo is special for Galindo because of her family's roots in Mexico.

"I was born here, but my parents were born in Mexico, so this brings us back to our main culture," Galindo said. "It brings you back to home."

SEE CINCO ON C3



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Zavita Mortense unfurls her best Cinco de Mayo dress before a performance at the annual celebration Saturday.

CINCO

Continued from C1

It's overwhelming to think about what your parents went through. It's a beautiful thing."

Some Cinco de Mayo partygoers were taken by a somewhat new activity known as slacklining.

A long yellow nylon rope was strung about a foot off the ground, and people were encouraged to give a shot at walking across the line like a tightrope at the circus.

Aptos High PE teacher Manuel Rubi said he was introduced to slacklining during a trip to France last summer, and he's been hooked ever since.

"It's somewhat addictive once you get a little balance going," Rubi said. "Some friends asked me to come today, so I thought this might make the event a little fun."

Cinco de Mayo is observed to commemorate the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín.

Contrary to widespread popular belief, Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's Independence Day.

Independence Day, the most important national holiday in Mexico, is celebrated on Sept. 16.

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Ehecua Daua performs at Davenport's Cinco de Mayo celebration Saturday in Davenport.