

# Dentist, patients team up to help others

By Staff Writer

A San Ramon dentist threw a party to raise money to help kids born with cleft palates. Dr. Sandy Bigman, his team and his patients raised \$1108 for The Smile Train at his annual 70s disco roller skating party/benefit recently. The Smile Train is a nonprofit group that helps provide cleft lip and palate surgery in 50 countries.

Disco music, jewelry beading, face-painting and old-fashioned roller skating were featured at the themed party. The more than 500 people who came to the party in 70s attire were each entered into a raffle drawing.

The money donated by Dr. Bigman and his patients will provide free cleft surgery for 4 children. This cleft surgery costs about \$250 per surgery.

Dr. Bigman has been participating in this fundraising program for The Smile Train for the past few years. "We love working on this program because we feel that we are really making a difference in someone's life," said Dr. Bigman. "When you look at these before and after pictures you can see how awful it must be to live with a cleft. This program really made all of us realize how lucky we are and it made us want to pitch in and help. Even if we are only able to help one child, it is worth it."

One hundred percent of the money raised at Dr. Sandy Bigman's benefit event will go directly to treatment programs at The Smile Train.



*Dr. Bigman poses alongside some patients at his Roller Skating Party/Benefit to raise money for The Smile Train, which funds cleft palate surgeries for children in need.*

Blackhawk Movies 7, Boomers in Livermore, Club Sport of San Ramon, Diablo Valley Bank, The Golden Skate, Golden Tee Golfand, Pasta Primavera and Starbucks in

the Marketplace all donated prizes for the fundraiser's raffle.

For more information, visit [www.smiletrain.org](http://www.smiletrain.org) or call 1-877-kidsmile.

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