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Surf contest organizer raises \$13,000 for support programs

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When Jon Sundt first took to the waves learning how to surf, he could never have predicted he would hold a surfing competition himself or the reasons surrounding the decision.

After the death of his two brothers, Steven and Eric, from drug and depression problems respectively, Sundt decided to hold a surfing competition as a way of supporting local nonprofit drug rehabilitation and mental health programs.

More than \$13,000 has been raised so far from the UCSD/Sundt Memorial Open recently held at Black's Beach, according to Sundt, a La Jolla resident. In all, there were about 140 contestants for the various events.

Although he considers the contest a success, Sundt said he had some lurking concerns about the weather and the surf and if they would be cooperative.

"Several days before the event the surf reports were saying the surf might not be good," Sundt said. "But the two days of the

contest the surf was incredible.

"I woke up at 2 a.m. (the morning of the event's first day) to the sound of thundering rain. Three hours later when I woke up at 5 to set up, I saw the moon. The storm had just passed San Diego. So it was almost like my brothers were pulling some strings."

The winners of the UCSD/Sundt Memorial Open competitions were Chris Stother, men's open (pro-am); Richard Kenvin, seniors; Ryder Mackey, grommet; Lisa Carulli, women; Travis Potter, junior.

Sundt, 33, a former member of the UCSD surf team, set up the surfing competition as a memorial to his brothers and to help others

with the problems that plagued his siblings. He managed to round up sponsorship from various local companies for prizes.

The proceeds from the competition will be donated to Teen Challenge, Sobriety House and other nonprofit drug rehabilitation and mental health services, he said. Next year he said he hopes the proceeds will top \$20,000, and he plans for the event to be held annually.

"The great thing about the surf contest is that we had 140 young people participating in a contest against drugs," Sundt said. "It was a positive message, it's unique in the surf industry, and I was very happy with everything."