

Kids Day donations keep growing

By Carmen George



Fresno State rugby player Marques Watkins, center, joins other volunteers as they sell Kids Day newspapers at the corner of Blackstone and Shaw Avenues Tuesday morning, March 3, 2015 in Fresno.

ERIC PAUL ZAMORA — THE FRESNO BEE [Buy Photo](#)

Kids Day donations are still being counted, but \$485,000 had been raised for Valley Children's Hospital as of 5 p.m. Wednesday, said Marshall McDowell, director of audience development at The Bee. The amount jumped from \$340,500 counted the night before.

Donations poured in Tuesday from thousands who purchased special editions of The Bee for \$1 from volunteers on street corners around the central San Joaquin Valley.

McDowell said this year's goal of raising \$530,000 appears within reach.

That would push the total raised in 28 years of the annual event, a joint effort of The Bee and ABC30, past \$7 million.

Valley Children's Hospital spokesperson Zara Arboleda said Kids Day donations are also being accepted through March 9 by texting the word GEORGE to 90999, which automatically provides a \$5 donation to the hospital.

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