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Chalking it up for children's benefit

Kristofer Noceda

HAYWARD -- About three years ago, Alex Ligon was inches away from being thrown into the foster care system.

But fortunately for him, he was able to be reunited with his brother through the help of the Lincoln Child Center (LCC).

Now Ligon, 19, is doing his part to give back to the program that helped him find his family.

The California State University, East Bay, sophomore -- along with members of his fraternity, Alpha Kappa Omega -- will host a charity fundraiser for the center Sunday.

"I just remember being in a position where I was real scared and didn't know what was going to happen to me," Ligon said. "I've been pretty much thinking about the kids at the center who are going through what I experienced. I wanted to do something positive for them.

The entertainment-based fundraiser will be held at Chalk It Up Billiards in downtown Hayward, and is fittingly named "Chalk It Up For Children."

Aside from several games of pool, the event will feature a poker tournament and live music.

"Personally, I just want to get whatever I can from the community for the children at the center," Ligon said. "No matter how big or small, I'm sure anything would be good enough to help them out."

The LCC provides mental health services for children and families living in Alameda County through residential, school and community-based programs. Its mission is to enable vulnerable and emotionally troubled children and their families to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

For more information or to make donations, contact Sara Lamnin, LCC program coordinator, at (510) 593-8026 or

saramnin@lincolncc.org.

Chalk It Up Billiards is at 22540 Foothill Blvd., in Hayward. Doors will be open from 1 p.m. to midnight Sunday. Entrance fee is \$11, or \$8 for CSUEB students.

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