

Hooping it up to fight diabetes

Fundraiser highlighted by basketball game between Pembroke Pines and Davie schools

By **SCOTT FISHMAN**
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West Broward High School's recent DiaBEAT THIS! event not only provided a night out for the community, but also helped in the fight against diabetes.

The third annual fundraiser, put on by the Student Organization of Anatomy and Physiology, benefited the American Diabetes Association and the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation. Money was raised through raffles, T-shirt sales and tickets sold for the event, which was highlighted by a basketball game between faculty and staff from the Pembroke Pines school and Davie's Western High School.

"This is our largest event of the year," said Hira Basit, SOAP's president. "In the beginning, it was

a smaller event where we had one side of the bleachers open. This year it's huge and we had to open both sides, and even then it's packed. It's exciting. We've gotten a great response."

The event also featured performances and presentations by West Broward's World Guard, dance teams, cheer squads and percussion group, Western's drama department and American Sign Language students and more. The Miami Heat dancers were on hand, and prizes included gift cards, movie passes and Katy Perry concert tickets.

Maria Muniz, science teacher and SOAP's sponsor, sparked interest for a fundraiser during a talk with students on obesity and diabetes.

"We wanted science to become popular at the school and bring

awareness to various issues when we started the club four years ago," she said. "This has really become a signature event of ours."

For senior Mairelys Cabrera, the cause hits close to home.

"A lot of my family has diabetes, so this is a fun event to bring attention to this disease," she said. "They make it very enjoyable and raise a lot of money to really make a difference. It also teaches people about diabetes, which they may not really know about."

Senior Giovanni Aleman agreed.

"It's like what the [event] shirt says: two schools, one community, two types and one goal," he said. "We are all trying to work together and raise money to help find a cure."

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