

Putting to prevent skin cancer

Miniature golf event at dermatology office in Norwell raises money and awareness

By Maxim Tamarov
THE PATRIOT LEDGER

He NORWELL was more focused on his putting than on ultraviolet rays Saturday, but Ephram Donahue, 7, of Lynnfield did learn something about the dangers of sun exposure.

The South Shore Skin Center was transformed into a two-story, 18-hole miniature golf course on Saturday for an event called "Putt for Prevention," a fundraiser for the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation.

"Putt for Prevention" was also held to celebrate the passing of a state bill that will set a minimum age for the use of tanning beds.

"My dad had melanoma (and) passed away almost two years ago," Allison Baker Donahue, Ephram's mother, said. "I think it's really important to teach the kids. They were really close to my dad."

Hingham resident Maryellen



■ Kaylee Zlatanova and Caroline O'Malley, both 8 and from Quincy, were among the children who played miniature golf at the "Putt for Prevention" event in Norwell.



■ Randy Winters, of Hingham helps daughters Grace, 3, and Harper, 4, with their putts.

Maguire-Eisen started the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation 12 years ago.

"We got 20 sponsors this year for our event," Maguire-Eisen said.

Each company sponsored a hole on the course.

"Whatever we made was wonderful," Maguire-Eisen said, talking about the money raised. "I'm not sure what the bottom line is going to be, but it was really about the celebration."

The Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation had held various fundraiser events before. This year, board member and Reading native Christa Rubin suggested setting up indoor miniature golf — something she had seen done at a fundraiser for her local library.

Rubin was nurse to Don-



■ Giuliana Scappini, 3, of Hingham, chooses a putter at the South Shore Skin Center in Norwell on Saturday.

ahue's father when he was being treated at Massachusetts General Hospital. It was from her that Donahue learned about the Norwell event. She brought

along Ephram, and her daughter, Tiferet, 4, to help them learn about melanoma and how to prevent it.

"Maryellen, who is running

this event, told me that it's actually very common in Ashkenazi Jews — which is us," Donahue said.

Although melanoma isn't necessarily hereditary, Donahue worries that her children will have a higher-than-average likelihood of developing it.

"The fact that they're teaching kids to be aware of the sun and about melanoma and how they can prevent it at a young age is just awesome," she said.

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■ Ephram Donahue, 7, finishes the 12th hole.



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■ Go to our website to see more photos of the melanoma fundraiser.

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