Santee **joins** **Lakes** **IMPACT**

Melanoma as a Partner in Prevention with IMPACT Melanoma focused on increasing awareness, prevention, and early detection.

While skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer of all types, it is also preventable. Together Santee Lakes and IMPACT Melanoma are focused on increasing awareness of the seriousness of skin cancer, especially melanoma that kills on average one person per hour in the United States. Additionally, when detected early, skin cancer, including melanoma, is 99% curable. Prevention is essential, adopting healthy sun habits include regular use of sunscreen throughout the year, and any time the UV index is 3 or higher. Prevention measures include wearing a hat, sunglasses and protective clothing and seeking shade, including portable shade to protect from the sun's harmful UV rays. May is an important month in the effort to increase awareness of the dangers of skin cancer, especially among 15-29-year-olds where skin cancer is the second highest form of cancer. Santee Lakes has collaborated with IMPACT Melanoma including its anchor program, Practice Safe Skin, providing access to free sunscreen throughout communities including 3 locations at Santee Lakes. This project was initiated by two medical students, Savannah Fakhouri, UCSD School of Medicine, a local San Diegan, and Sogol Stephanie Javadi, UCLA School of Medicine, and Grace Woodruff, a local survivor of melanoma. "Through this initiative, we plan to install free sunscreen dispensers in public outdoor spaces across San Diego County, making this vital preventive health measure more accessible and raising awareness about the dangers of skin cancer. Our goal is to reduce barriers that prevent families from protecting themselves and their loved ones from UV light exposure. We are grateful to the City of Santee, Grossmont Health Care District, Santee Lakes, and the YMCA for supporting this public health project.

"Look for sunscreen dispensers throughout these communities and remember to be SunSafe every day of the year.