



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEAL BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT GOES GOLD TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FACING CANCER

Limited-edition challenge coins available beginning September 1 will benefit Choke Cancer and Rady Children's Health Orange County

SEAL BEACH, Calif. — The Seal Beach Police Department will launch a limited-edition “Go Gold” challenge coin fundraiser beginning September 1, 2026, to raise awareness of childhood cancer and support children and families affected by the disease. The fundraiser grew from the experience of a local Seal Beach family. John Cantale, owner of Calypso Juice & Vitamins on Main Street, founded the nonprofit **Choke Cancer** after his son, Dino, was diagnosed with brain cancer at just three years old.

Dino was diagnosed with **medulloblastoma**, a form of brain cancer, and spent nearly 10 consecutive months in the hospital receiving treatment. After returning home, Dino was in remission for approximately nine months before his cancer was discovered again when he was five years old. He then underwent another year of treatment, this time without an extended hospitalization. Dino completed treatment in July 2025 and has now been in remission for approximately one year.

During Dino’s first period of remission, John and his family began thinking about what they had experienced and the many other families facing similar circumstances. That experience led to the creation of **Choke Cancer**, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness of childhood cancer and helping families know they are not facing the disease alone.

“We are fortunate that Dino was able to make it through such a horrific time,” Cantale said. “What we learned throughout this experience is that other families need help and

support. That is how Choke Cancer was born. Every September, we Go Gold for childhood cancer and try to spread the word so no family feels alone.”

Cantale originally approached the Seal Beach Police Department after seeing the Department’s previous charitable awareness campaigns and asked whether SBPD would support this initiative. A limited-edition challenge coin was developed that continues SBPD’s tradition of supporting charitable causes and community partnerships.

The specially designed coin incorporates the **gold ribbon**, the internationally recognized symbol of childhood cancer awareness, along with artwork recognizing the local roots of the campaign. A total of **500 coins** were produced and will be sold for **\$20 each**, beginning September 1 and continuing while supplies last.

The **Seal Beach Police League** generously covered the initial cost of producing the coins so that the proceeds from the campaign can benefit the two charitable organizations. At the conclusion of the campaign, proceeds will be divided equally between **Choke Cancer** and **Rady Children’s Health Orange County**, formerly known as Children’s Hospital of Orange County, or CHOC.

The Seal Beach Police League is an independent, all-volunteer nonprofit organization that supports the Seal Beach Police Department and a variety of programs and community initiatives. In addition to covering the initial production costs, the League will help facilitate online sales and manage the charitable funds generated through the campaign.

“This project really started with John looking for a way to turn his family’s experience into something that could help other people,” Chief of Police Michael Henderson said. “Dino’s story is one of tremendous strength, and this campaign gives our community an opportunity to support children and families facing childhood cancer while helping raise awareness of an issue that affects thousands of families every year.”

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated **9,680 children ages 14 and younger** and **5,660 adolescents ages 15 through 19** will be diagnosed with cancer in the United States in 2026. Cancer remains the leading disease-related cause of death among children and adolescents, although treatment advances have significantly improved survival over the past several decades.

Worldwide, approximately **400,000 children and adolescents ages 19 and younger develop cancer each year**. Survival rates exceed 80 percent in many high-income countries but remain substantially lower in many low- and middle-income countries. “Partnering with the Seal Beach Police Department and having their support is a great way for us to spread the word,” Cantale said. “We are proud to offer these coins with the Department and to have the proceeds support both Choke Cancer and the children’s hospital that serves so many families in Orange County.”

Beginning September 1, coins may be purchased for \$20 at the following locations:

- **Seal Beach Police Department lobby**, 911 Seal Beach Boulevard
 - Open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm.
- **Calypso Juice & Vitamins**, 330 Main Street in Seal Beach
 - Open Monday-Saturday from 7:00 am – 5:30 pm.
- **Online through the Seal Beach Police League website -**
<https://sealbeachpoliceleague.com/>

Coins will remain available while supplies last.

About Choke Cancer

Choke Cancer is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by John Cantale and inspired by his son Dino’s experience with childhood cancer. The organization was created to raise awareness of childhood cancer, support affected families, and help ensure that families facing a childhood cancer diagnosis know they are not alone. Follow **@chokecancer on Instagram** to learn more.

About the Seal Beach Police League

The Seal Beach Police League is an independent, all-volunteer nonprofit organization that raises funds to support Seal Beach Police Department personnel, programs, community partnerships, and other initiatives benefiting the Department and the Seal Beach community. The Police League is separate from the City of Seal Beach and the Seal Beach Police Department.

About Rady Children’s Health Orange County

Rady Children’s Health Orange County, formerly Children’s Hospital of Orange County, is part of Rady Children’s Health, a nonprofit pediatric health system serving children and families throughout Southern California.



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