



CHARITY WINS IN RACE OF FLOATING TOYS DO-GOOD DUCKS DIP, DUNK, DELIGHT IN DAD'S DAY DASH

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Conley and Ashley Stroud dawdled Sunday as so many other Denver fathers and daughters have for decades of Father's Days.

They strolled along the banks of Cherry Creek.

They carefully skipped from slippery rock to slicker stone.

And they watched ducks - about 40,000 of them, each made of rubber and each made for a mission:

To raise money for the Colorado Christian Home through the third Original Denver Duck Race.

"They looked funny," said 8-year-old Ashley as a golden wave of toy ducks turned a modest set of falls near the Cherry Creek Shopping Center into Denver's biggest bathtub.

Sponsored by the Denver Active 20-30 Club service group, the ducky dash funneled new funds into the Colorado Christian Home, which aids abused children and their families.

Eager to offer their help were thousands of fathers and children who gathered for the race and an accompanying picnic.

Many gave donations to sponsor the thousands of tagged-and-numbered ducks, brought to town in their own railroad car from Calgary, Alberta.

"I think the odds of winning this are better than winning the lottery," said Conley Stroud.

The fastest rubber ducks to navigate Cherry Creek won their sponsors \$20,000 of potential prizes Sunday, including a 1992 Geo Metro convertible, a \$1,000 toy shopping spree and a wind-surfing board.

Families handled the pre-race suspense as best they could. Michael Smith of Aurora taught toddler son Troy a little miniature golf. "Put it in there. Put it in there," the proud dad advised the young putter. Ken and Linda Rumery of Denver watched daughter Karla, 3, splash in water.

After logistics director Scott Patrick gave the sign to dump the ducks at the Steele Street Bridge, 9-year-old Adam Carmony of Greenwood Village was mesmerized by the duck-robotics: "They do flips in the water."