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Necklaces Sold To Help Fund Women's Surgeries

Onyx Necklaces Sold By Nativdad Medical Foundation

SALINAS, Calif. -- The Nativdad Medical Foundation is selling necklaces to raise money used to help women get elective surgeries they cannot afford on their own.

Linda Ford, president and CEO of the Nativdad Medical Foundation, started the Onyx Fund For Women three months ago after hearing Onix Herrera's story.

Doctors discovered fibroid tumors in 32-year-old Herrera's uterus after she gave birth to her daughter more than four years ago.

Although the tumors were not life-threatening, they were painful and affected her quality of life.

Herrera wanted them removed but couldn't afford the procedure. She waited nearly five years to have the surgery after finally earning and borrowing \$3,000 for a down payment.

"She's really happy she can be an example for other women and go ahead and do surgery," Ford said. "(It is) a really delicate matter, to share a story (and) get the help they need."

In the past month, Ford's group has raised \$30,000, enough money to help a dozen women get elective surgeries that are similar to Herrera's.

"This is absolutely unacceptable. Women have gynecological problems, and not have money to pay a down payment," Ford said.



Onix Herrera (center), pictured with her sister Yessenia Mendoza (left), and Nativdad Medical Foundation President and CEO, Linda Ford (right).

Ford designed a necklace in honor of Herrera, and is selling them to raise money.

The necklaces are sterling silver with three onyx pieces that are in the shape of an O. The necklaces are being sold for \$125 and \$100 goes to the fund to help women in need of the surgery, Ford said.

Herrera said she is humbled to have a necklace and fund in her honor, and is hoping the necklaces can change lives.

"(It is) not necessarily how big or brilliant the jewelry might be -- it's the significance behind it," Herrera said.

The Community Foundation for Monterey County has offered a challenge grant of \$50,000 if the same amount is raised by the Onyx Fund for Women.