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Train show keeps money rolling down the line to CHS band

By: Leslie Hutchison, staff 7:55 pm
03/02/2008

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CHESHIRE - They both depend on parallel lines, but any other similarities between marching bands and miniature railroads are hard to find.

Unless you attended the biannual train show that benefits the Cheshire Marching Ram Band. If so, you'll realize trains and trumpets do go together.

For 30 years, parent volunteers have organized the shows to raise money for Cheshire High School bands, including the jazz, symphonic, concert and marching band. About 600 students are involved in the school's bands, according to volunteers.

"It's all about getting money for the band," said Duane Beale, a member of the Cheshire Band Parent Association. He said the money raised from the train show would help purchase equipment, pay for instructors and support master classes with nationally recognized musicians.

"I love helping the band," said Marilyn Milton, a band grandparent. She's volunteered for about a decade at the train show and the Music in Motion competition. Her daughter, Marilyn Kahl, is a Cheshire band alumnus who now teaches fifth grade at Highland elementary school.

The band's train shows, held each March and November, are the largest of their kind in Connecticut and the second largest in New England, according to Beale. He said Sunday's event offered displays that can't be found elsewhere.

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