



2011 PATRICK JOHN HUGHES PARENT/BOOSTER AWARD

Presented Friday evening, Nov. 11, at 8:45 p.m. to open the preliminary awards ceremony

Tom Barnett, 2011 Recipient Band Booster, Ben Davis High School, IN

In his years of service as a volunteer with the Ben Davis High School Marching Giants, Tom Barnett has seen state and national titles, performances in the most prestigious parades in the United States and a performance at the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan.

Barnett is the Marching Giants crew chief, and he has also served as booster club president and contest host in the past. He has served as a booster volunteer since 1973. As crew chief, he has been responsible for getting the often 300 plus members of the band on the road. His role as crew chief is vitally important to the band, but Barnett's influence on the students and the band program spans far wider than this role alone.

"The things the outside world does not see are the countless hours he puts in and the encouragement he gives," Gaye B. McKinney says. "Tom is one of the most dedicated persons I know. Even though he is not a paid member of the staff, he is always the first one at the school and the one to turn off the lights at night (even if it's 1:00 a.m.). Despite his advanced years, his amount of energy is endless when it comes to the students' and band's needs."

Barnett can often be found helping a frustrated student or checking on a member that might have been sick or injured. He is the man that holds his umbrella over the drum major during rainy practices, makes sure the band's youngest members feel at home, or makes sure a student has lunch money. He is the first person to correct student behavior that does not represent the band well and is the first to congratulate members that are on the right path.

"In a band program with such diversity as ours, Barnett fits a unique role as the grandfather figure to students of every race, religion and economic status," the Ben Davis band directors agree.

Barnett has gone the "extra mile" to support the Ben Davis Marching Giants despite his own health concerns. Barnett is a 76-year-old privately battling cancer, and yet he has never been more active and vital to the Ben Davis band program.

"Today, as Tom is conquering his bout with cancer, he is still coming to rehearsals and managing the equipment crew during the current marching season," Gary Wishmeyer, Supervisor of Music Education Students at Indiana University – Bloomington, says. "He loved our days of competing at BOA in Johnson City as this would give him a few days to visit with other competing

band parents and equipment crews from around the nation to share ideas and to build friendships. He was a great 'good will' ambassador for Ben Davis and the bands from the State of Indiana.

"During my 24-year tenure as a Ben Davis Band Director, Tom was always close by to lend a hand, to encourage and support the students and staff, but more importantly, to be a true friend!"



Patrick John Hughes

The Patrick John Hughes Parent/Booster Award annually recognizes the extraordinary commitment, dedication, support and sacrifice of music parents and boosters around the world by shining a spotlight on an individual who exemplifies these qualities.

The award is named in honor of Patrick John Hughes, the father of Patrick Henry Hughes. Patrick Henry is a remarkable young man who, despite physical challenges that would seem

overwhelming to many, has excelled as a musician and student, singing and playing piano and trumpet with the Louisville Marching and Pep Bands, with the help of his father, who tirelessly maneuvers his son's wheelchair through the formations with the other 220+ members of the Cardinal Marching Band.

The inspirational Hughes story has been featured on ESPN College Game Day, ABC World News, National Public Radio, Oprah and in Sports Illustrated and People magazine, among others. In 2008, the family was featured as a recipient of ABC's "Extreme Home Makeover." Patrick Henry Hughes, Patrick John Hughes and Bryant Stamford are also the authors of the book "I Am Potential – Eight Lessons on Living, Loving, and Reaching Your Dreams."

Learn more about the award and how to submit a nomination

Read more about Patrick John Hughes and his family and the Parent/Booster Award at www.musicforall.org, where you can also find out how to nominate the exceptional parent or booster in your music program. Previous nominations may be re-submitted.