

Music festival donates \$2,400 to high school performing arts

BY CORINNE WESTEMAN
Staff Writer

Thanks to an inaugural partnership, Evergreen Music Festival has donated \$2,400 of its event proceeds to Evergreen High School's performing arts department.

The school's choir, band and theater programs provided 50 volunteers, who spent a total of 150 hours at the July 4 festival at Buchanan Fields.

Jackie Mohr, the festival's volunteer coordinator, described the partnership as a perfect marriage between the two entities, which is the first of its kind in the festival's 28-year history.

"Evergreen High School provided so many volunteers and changed the feel of the festival by infusing youthful energy," festival president Cheri Rubin said.

EHS senior Gabi Paterson, 17, a former band member, spent part of July 4 volunteering alongside her friends, and she expected the \$800 the band program is receiving will help buy new instruments.

"That will be nice for (the band members) to not have to fund-raise so much and not have to be so stressed out during the school year," Paterson said.

Paterson and her friends checked in



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EVERGREEN MUSIC FESTIVAL PRESIDENT CHERI RUBIN, left, vice president Kenny Fuller, second from right, and volunteer coordinator Jackie Mohr, right, present Evergreen High School Principal Brandon Brekke with a check for \$2,400. The money will go toward the school's performing arts department.

festival attendees, and she said many people were excited that the proceeds and other donations would go toward the school's performing arts.

EHS junior Brooke Hager, 16, who participates in theater, signed up to volunteer after theater teacher Scott Ogle asked her and fellow thespians to help the theater

program and the community at large.

The program likely will use its \$800 to purchase costumes, set pieces and props for this year's theater productions, Hager said.

"It's cool to be helpful to the school and the community," she said while she was volunteering on July 4. "I'm enjoying the music and being with my friends."

On Monday, organizers presented principal Brandon Brekke with the \$2,400 check for the performing arts department. Afterward, he extended his gratitude to the music festival on the school's behalf, describing the donation as incredibly important because running a performing arts department is costly.

"For instance, a tuba alone is \$8,000," he said. "We have such incredibly talented teachers and students, and ... they already are working to do more with less."

Brekke also appreciated that the Evergreen Music Festival provided a volunteer opportunity for students to build character and help the community. Overall, he said, he would like to see the partnership continue.

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