



Perris News

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Thank You Comes in the Form of a Concert

More than 200 members of the Rancho Verde High School Marching Band expressed their gratitude for a \$50,000 grant from Lowe's in the best way they knew how—by singing, by playing instruments, by twirling, by being performers.

The Rancho Verde band made its first-appearance ever at a business last week to say thank you for the grant from the Lowe's Charitable Educational Foundation, which will be used to make several upgrades to the school's fine arts programs. The grant was facilitated through the efforts of Perris City Councilwoman Rita Rogers, who put the school and the company in touch with each other and help shepherd the grant from beginning application to final approval.

More than 400 Lowe's employees at the Distribution Center on Ramona Expressway in Perris were treated to a lunchtime concert that included the singing of holiday carols by the school choir and a musical presentation by the marching band.

Maria Becerra-Gotcher, Human Resources Manager at the center, said Lowe's is proud to be able to help a local school. Store employees were thrilled to witness the performance.

"At Lowe's Regional Distribution Center in Perris, we are excited to have the Rancho Verde High School Marching Band performing for our team members and management staff," she said. "We are proud that Lowe's is establishing itself as one of the employers of choice in the local area by being strong community partners with our local schools. What a wonderful treat for Lowe's team to have earned this visit by such a talented group of local students!"

Marching band conductor Nicholas Pope, 17, of Perris, said the entire contingent wanted to show its appreciation for the grant.

"We want to demonstrate how thankful we are and how passionate we are about what we do," Pope said. "We are so thankful for Lowe's. In this economy, programs like band are being cut out from school budgets."

Nicole Neerman, 18, said she wanted Lowe's to know that the grant will "be going towards something good."

"We all love what we do," she said.

Rancho Verde Principal Olivier Wong called the performance at Lowe's a historic day for the marching band. It had never before performed at a private corporation.

Wong said most of the employees at the Lowe's Distribution Center come from Perris and surrounding communities.

"We have received so much," Wong said. "We are glad to be able to do our part to say thank you for this generous grant. We are beyond grateful."

Rogers said the Rancho Verde band is recognized as one of the area's outstanding musical units and she expressed her thanks for the concert performance.

"I appreciate Principal Wong keeping in the spirit of Christmas by arranging this concert," Rogers said. "They are an outstanding musical and vocal group."



Perris resident Nicholas Pope conducted the Rancho Verde High School Marching Band in its holiday concert at the Lowe's Distribution Center in Perris.



The Rancho Verde High School band performed several holiday numbers during its performance.



The drum line gave a rousing performance during the concert at Lowe's.