



## February 2021 Newsletter

### Using Your Donations Responsibly

Band Together leadership strives to spend as little as possible on administrative overhead to maximize support to students in need. We are all volunteers who are as devoted to the cause as you are!

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Balance as of 1/1/2020</b>    | <b>\$8994.97</b> |
| <b>Sources of Cash</b>           |                  |
| Donations                        | \$9147.86        |
| <b>Total Income 2019</b>         | <b>\$9147.86</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                  |                  |
| Support to Band Students         | 8376.00          |
| <b>Total Expenses 2020</b>       | <b>\$8376.00</b> |
| <b>Ending Balance 12/31/2020</b> | <b>\$9766.83</b> |

### Message from the President

On behalf of the board, thank you for your incredible support. Over the last 5 years, your generosity has assisted 75 teens experience the satisfaction and joy that comes from dedication and hard work. Being the part of our nationally recognized program offers such wonderful, enriching opportunities for Avon students! This program means so much more to the students not just performing and winning.

*“Guard has not only taught me things, but it has also given me a second family!”*

*“I have learned good health habits along with strategies for good work ethic and attitude!”*

When Band Together started to sponsor students, we were able to provide each family financial aid of 80% of their fees. Recently, we provided 50-60% of their fees. Our goal is to raise this back to 60-70% of their fees and hope to assist more families to be part of the Avon Band Program.

Your continued support for the upcoming year is greatly appreciated. [Donate now](#)

It has been an unusual year, and our board has not had the opportunities to meet with all our supporters and meet with the incoming parents. With that in mind, we thought we would introduce our board. We are all committed to the support of this very important program.



**Barbara Doll – President**

I became involved with Avon Band in 1994, with my boys. Worked my way up to Booster President! As the program grew, and Mr. Webb needed some office assistance, the position of Band Secretary was opened. I enjoyed working as the Band/Performing Arts secretary for 16 years.

When John and Kelly asked me to be involved with the forming of Avon Band Together, I was thrilled to be involved in a program assisting the Avon Band. It is my privilege to work with these amazing board members as we work toward a common goal - providing family’s with assistance for their students to be part of this life-changing experience.



**John Sparzo– Vice-President**

**Mandy Sparzo - Member-at-large**

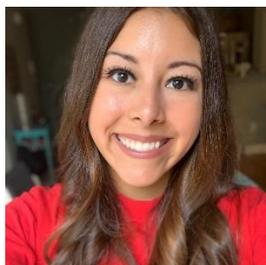
We moved to Avon in 1997 and heard about the incredible band program at AHS soon after. However, we did not experience it firsthand until our oldest son started in the 2008 Grand National Championship year (Communiformity). We were mesmerized by the show and the positive transformational power the band program had on teens. When the band was selected to march in the Rose Parade in 2012, we were involved in

fundraising to ensure that all members of the band could make the trip to California. With the inspiration and partnership of Kelly Gerboth (and Jay Webb's support), Avon Band Together was formed to keep the fundraising momentum going long after the parade in Pasadena. Even though our 3rd marcher graduated 2 years ago, we remain proud supporters of the program. We believe the band program benefits our kids and our community, so we give monthly to ensure that all of Avon's kids can participate regardless of financial need.



**Mary Burkhart - Member in charge of Donations**

I have been involved with the Avon Marching Black & Gold program since 2006; and the directors, staff and students have made an incredible impact on my life! My daughter, Katie, was a snare drummer in the Marching Black & Gold and Avon Winter Drumline from 2006-2010. During that time, I witnessed the many life skills this world-class program develops in participating students, such as...the pursuit of excellence, developing a strong work ethic and working as a part of a cohesive team to achieve a common goal. I continue to be passionate about the Avon Band program, and completely committed to making participation possible for any student, regardless of a family's financial ability to pay the band fee. Please join us in making dreams come true!



**Robin Wilson – Treasurer**

I graduated from the Avon Band Program in 2008. The Band program has always meant a lot to me. When I heard of Avon Band Together, I joined the board in 2017. I wanted to be part of a solution to help provide an opportunity for students to participate in the Avon Band Program, one of the best programs in the country!



**Craig McKenna – Member-at-large**

I am an alumnus of Avon High School from 2005 and have been involved with Avon Band Together since 2013. I am currently a materials analyst for a medical device manufacturing facility on the northwest side of Indianapolis.

The best part of being on the Band Together board is knowing we are assisting several students with their participation in the Avon Band Program.

The last year has been tough for so many, but the determination of the group to continue to strive for excellence during these unprecedented times is truly awe inspiring.



**Kathy Harcourt - Member-at-large**

I was delighted to be asked to be on the board of Avon Band Together. I so enjoy the people I work with on this committee, as we all have the experience of having been parents or participants of the Avon Marching Black and Gold. This committee works to raise funds to provide scholarships for students, whose family is struggling to meet the cost of their band fees.

My daughter graduated in 2006. I am happy to give back to a program that gave so much to her. This band program means so much to the kids that are a part of it.

Band continues to be a part of my life, for which I am thankful. The students participating in band are hard-working and dedicated. These attributes carry over into their lives after graduation.

By being a part of Avon Band Together, I can continue to provide resources to students and their families that may need a little extra help.

I encourage all parents of students in the Avon band program, to get involved! It is a great way to meet people, see who your kids are hanging out with and you will most certainly enjoy it!

Play on, March on, Rock on, AVON!



**Jane Pfaffenberger -  
Member-at-large**

Our lives have been out of sync for way too long. Missing family, friends, and activities. I am glad we have this newsletter to help keep us

connected and be informed.

As a founding board member of Avon Band Together, I am proud of our accomplishments over the years. When I was asked to join the Avon Band Together board, I was surprised and excited to be a part of something new. At that time, our mission was to help the band program financially with uniforms, new and replacement instruments and other things that were beyond the band budget. I felt that it was a way to stay connected and give back to the program that provided so much for my kids. When my first child chose band and her first instrument, I had no idea what the future held. (I was not a music kid growing up.) Band, in its various forms, has become my family. All four of my kids were in band. Not the wildly successful organization it is today. Back then, the band struggled to make it to state. But that did not dull the enthusiasm of the students or parents. We all worked hard to be the best we could. Band boosters then, as today, did so much to provide what was needed.

Our mission has changed, to provide scholarships to our band kids who struggle with the fees. We depend upon our donors to support Avon Band Together. We stay connected through the newsletter and our booth a few band events. Donations are our only source of income. Today, we are struggling in a different way. The band staff is working so hard to give our kids a traditional band experience even with the limitations. I have two grandkids in band. (Who would have thought?!) Their mom is on the booster board. I am so proud and happy for this tradition in our family. I am thankful that I can see the band perform, even if not in person. They are truly spectacular! There is music all around us. It makes us and the world a better place. For those who make music, it is always with them. All four of my adult children still use their music abilities in their lives. My spouse who had a garage band in high school and beyond, still plays. In his case, they got the band back together

again and play events a few times a year. Thank you for your financial support of Avon Band Together. As we all struggle with the circumstances of today, music is a good escape for all of us, especially those who make it. I am glad you are part of the Avon Band family. We will be together again soon!



**Cynde Goldberg – Member-at-large**

The Avon Marching Black and Gold represents tradition, the dedication by the students to excellence and commitment of their parents to this facet of

education. The students learn leadership skills as each section is self-governing. Instructors teach the appreciation of the spirit of competition where winning with humility and losing with grace is at the core. Students learn early on that this is a group effort; they reach beyond themselves, after long practices, uncomfortable bus rides, their 46th slice of pizza this football season, to discover the content of their character. These are lessons that will shape the adult of tomorrow.