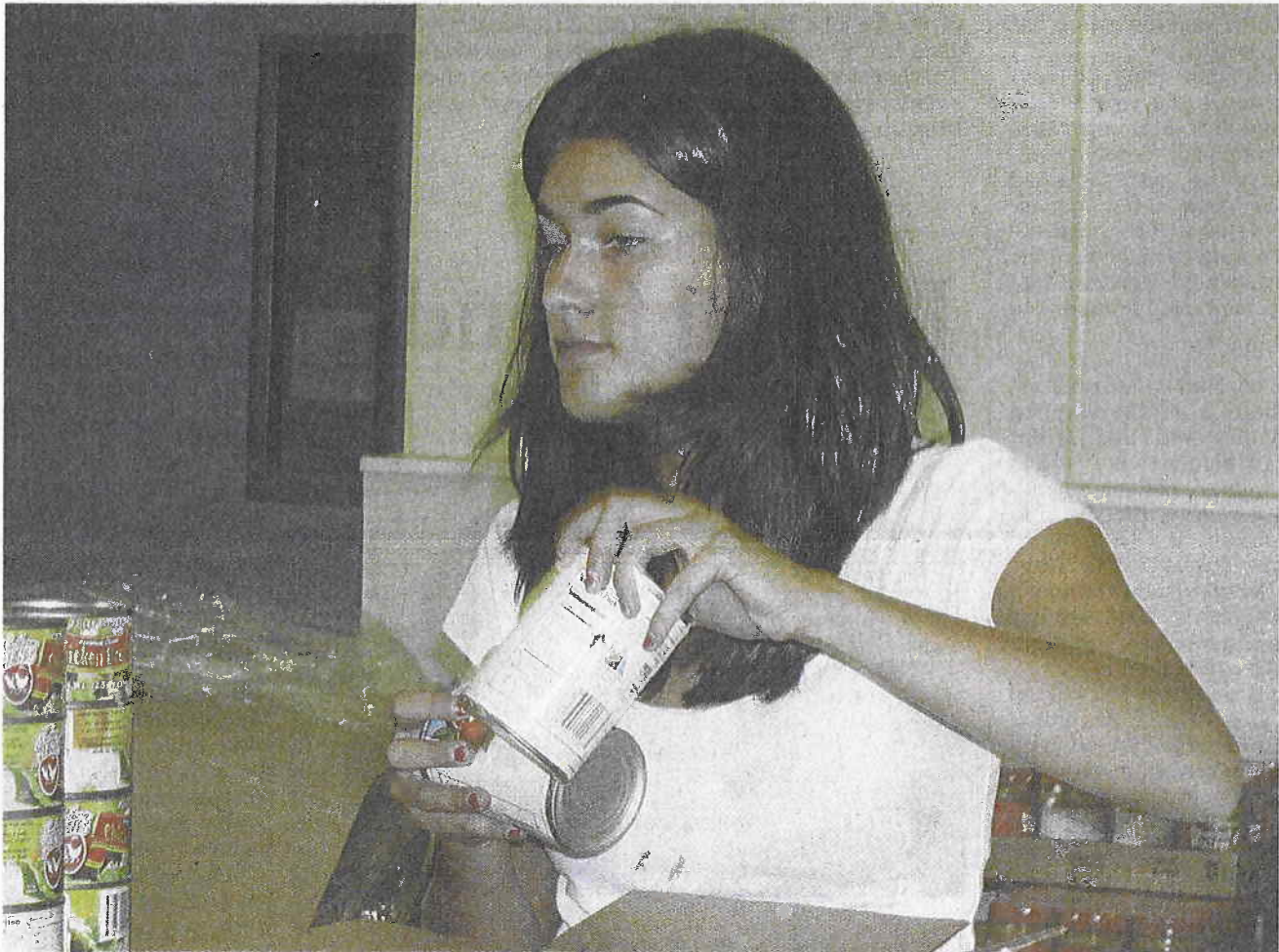


CENTRAL DAUPHIN SCHOOLS

# Hitting the right note



PHOTOS BY JEANNETTE ARCHER-SIMONS, The Patriot-News

**ABOVE:** Central Dauphin High School band member Hannah Hrobuchak, 15, packs boxes at the food bank. The band gave up a day of band camp to volunteer in the community. **BELOW:** Emily Mountain, 16, paints a mural at Silence of Mary Home.

## Band members spend day providing helping hand

**BY JEANNETTE ARCHER-SIMONS**  
For The Patriot-News

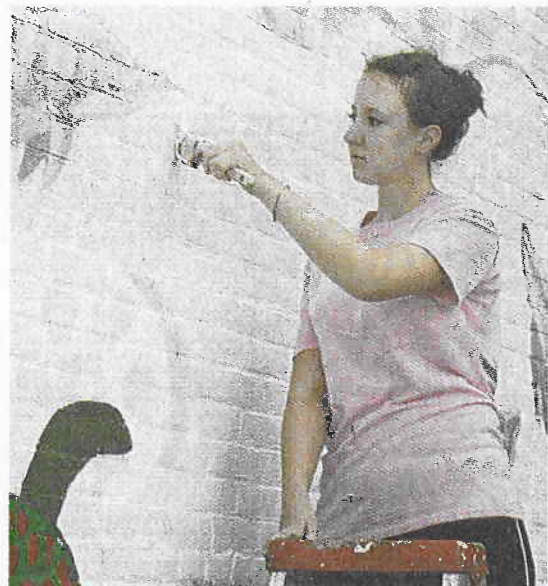
Central Dauphin School District Band was marching to a different tune when more than 100 students volunteered to provide community service for a day instead of attending their usual band practice.

The RamBand students divided up to show apprecia-

tion for all the family support they have for the band by volunteering for five organizations. More than 500 hours of service were provided to the community in one day.

At Neighborhood Center, Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association, Silence of the Mary Home, Wildwood Lake Sanctuary and

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# BAND

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Central Pennsylvania Food Bank the students cleaned, painted, boxed, sorted and mucked stalls.

Sue Ruby, executive director at Silence of the Mary Home, said this was one of her favorite volunteer groups.

"They come with harmony and bring joy and creativity. Even people having hard time, who stop by for a couple days of food — which is many more than ever, smile when they see the kids who make them feel welcome," Ruby said.

Vlad Ryabyy, 14, packed shelves at the food bank.

"It's cool to make a difference. Even though it is work, it is sort of a break," he said.

The project started three years ago when band director Matt Ceresini observed how much service is done by the Central Dauphin

football team.

"It is a great team building activity, and when the students come back to practice, everybody knows everybody, even though a quarter of the band is new," Ceresini said.

The event is organized with the help of the Band Boosters Association and United Way of the Capital Region.

Eric Bloom, band boosters president, said the matching of band students with organizations that need help is a demonstration of school spirit. The students work hard at practices during the summer, getting ready for games, parades, competitions and concerts, "but they really enjoy this day, and they fight for the locations they love."

This week, students were back to learning drills, mastering music and marching after learning that they, too, can volunteer and give back to their communities.

"They are rehearsing for life, too," Ceresini said.