

PATRICK JOHN HUGHES PARENT/BOOSTER AWARD

**PRESENTATION FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024
9:00 P.M. AWARDS CEREMONY**

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, a remarkable man who, despite physical challenges that would seem overwhelming to many, excelled as a musician and student. Learn more at education.musicforall.org.



MARK AND KATHLEEN MENG 2024 RECIPIENTS

Though the last of Mark and Kathleen Meng's children have already graduated from the Blue Springs Band program, you wouldn't know it. With the Mengs' continued support, the Blue Springs Band is forever indebted not only to their dedication to volunteering but also the great human beings they are on and off the field.

Mark is instrumental in overseeing prop construction, the prop team, and driving the truck. Often called the "dream maker," Mark makes the impossible possible. Mark also coordinates the setting up and moving of props for rehearsals, games, and performances and works to make sure every volunteer understands their role. Mark also leads training sessions for parents about how to provide information to students and best encourage them before performances.

Blue Springs Director Tim Allshouse shared a story in which he found Mark sanding props — Mark worried they were too rough and wanted to make sure the students' hands wouldn't get scratched. When asked if someone had raised the issue to him, he replied, "No. My job is to think about all the 'what ifs' so you don't have to worry about them. By the way, I built this ramp too, to make it easier to go over the curb."

Mark is described as being able to uniquely balance the skills of a fearless leader with compassion, ingenuity, and the ability to unite volunteers from various backgrounds to come together for a common goal.

Dr. Kathleen Meng serves as the band's physician, traveling with the band for every event, prepared to treat anything and everything for band and staff members. Dr. Meng's calm and caring demeanor has helped countless kids over the years... often with non-band related



issues but with life's issues. Kathleen also serves as a band photographer, organizes the band's senior night reception, and creates decorative photo buttons for senior families for free.

In 2020, Dr. Meng used her knowledge and contacts at Johnson & Johnson to offer guidance to keep students safe while finding a way for Blue Springs to keep doing band. Dr. Meng spent countless hours researching the relationship between Covid and wind instruments. Dr. Meng provided daily recommendations and provided PPE for band members. All while balancing her practice and taking care of her own family while the world was living in such uncertainty.

The Mengs model the idea that we are all stronger together. It is common for Kathleen to be found in the equipment truck helping Mark move equipment, or for Mark to be holding a cold compress to a student's head while Kathleen provides medical attention. They show the students that everyone's role is important, and anybody can help anybody. They continue to serve with

PATRICK JOHN HUGHES PARENT/BOOSTER AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- 2023 Diane and Bob Pressel**
Miamisburg H.S. | Miamisburg, OH
- 2022 Mindy Patton**
William Mason H.S. | Mason, OH
- 2021 Tom Shrum**
Norwin H.S. | Irwin, PA
- 2020 William Montgomery Jr.**
Bellbrook H.S. | Bellbrook, OH
- 2019 Ann Leever**
Millard North H.S. | Omaha, NE
- 2018 Randy Barnett**
Blue Springs H.S. | Blue Springs, MO
- 2017 Greg Hooper**
McEachern H.S. | McEachern, GA
- 2016 Robert Edwards**
Fort Mill H.S. | Fort Mill, SC
- 2015 Derek Greer**
Owasso H.S. | Owasso, OK
- 2014 Tom Meyer**
Blue Springs H.S. | Blue Springs, MO
- 2013 Dick Zentner**
Norwin H.S. | North Huntingdon, PA
- 2012 PJ Littleton**
Hillsboro Middle School, | Franklin, TN
- 2011 Tom Barnett**
Ben Davis H.S. | Indianapolis, IN
- 2010 Charlie Broach**
Franklin H.S. | Franklin, TN
- 2009 Jim and Ginny Klopfenstein**
Morton H.S. | Morton, IL
- 2008 Dan Adams**
American Fork H.S. | American Fork, UT

kindness and compassion and are true models of servant leadership, which in turn inspires future generations of parents and students.

From Director Tim Allshouse, "The phrase: 'standing on the shoulders of giants' encompasses what the Mengs have done for the band program. Mark and Kathleen have set that foundation and model for all others to follow. They will be volunteers that will stand the test of time and will forever live in the folklore of the Blue Springs Band program."