

**SOUTHINGTON BAND BACKERS, INC.**

98 Dawn Lane  
Southington, CT 06489

## **SHS Marching Band Thanks the Community for a Successful Hurricane Relief Fundraising Effort**

### **For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

**Jerry Belanger, Publicity Chairperson**  
**Southington Band Backers**  
**Day (860) 545-3905 ([belanger@harthosp.org](mailto:belanger@harthosp.org))**  
**Eve (860) 621-1099 ([jwb-eagle@cox.net](mailto:jwb-eagle@cox.net))**

**Tom Jacob, President**  
**Southington Band Backers**  
**Day (203) 304-4008**  
**Eve (860) 276-8820**  
**Cell (203) 460-4103 ([tom.jacob@chartercom.com](mailto:tom.jacob@chartercom.com)) ([tomjacob1@cox.net](mailto:tomjacob1@cox.net))**

**Southington, CT** --- Saturday night, September 3, about 75 Southington teenagers gathered at Falcon's Nest in Plantsville to enjoy each other's company, rock out to the sounds of punk and ska and raise money for a good cause.

Sophomore SHS Blue Knights Marching Band member Chris Jacob had originally organized the concert as a fundraiser for the Marching Band but was moved to divert the funds to the victims of Hurricane Katrina by what he saw on TV. "I was horrified by the tragedy this disaster has caused for people in the Gulf States, and felt we just had to do something to help," said Chris.

Those in attendance obviously agreed. Despite the fact that the crowd was less than half the size of a similar event held in March which raised \$1,200.00 for the band, the Band Backer organization was able to make out a check for \$1,022.40 to the American Red Cross to help the disaster relief effort.

"It was great that everyone had such a good time, but it was even better that we raised so much money. Those people really need it," Chris said. "I wasn't sure how much money we would raise since we only sold about 75 tickets, but everybody was great about pitching in. Even the band members who drove in from Massachusetts and New York were putting money in the bucket."

Several town officials, residents, and businesses donated money, goods and services to help in the relief effort. Special thanks go to Price Chopper for donating cases of bottled water, James Sokolowski, President of the Polish Falcon Club, for

waiving the rental fee for the hall, and The Music Shop for discounting the audio equipment rental fees. In addition, the five bands that appeared at the concert ("Spikkit", "The Kleptos", "The Cliches", "Honeycreeper" and headliner "Math the Band") performed free of charge.

Chris, along with fellow band members Tom Jacob, Joe Proud, and Garret Fischer, and several Band Backers, were the first group to present a donation check to the Red Cross during Channel 8 television's "Hurricane Relief Day" held on Wednesday, September 7. After the live presentation, the band members did a live interview with "Billy" from WPLR Radio's Chaz & AJ Show.

For more information about the activities of the Southington Blue Knights Marching Band, contact Tom Jacob, Southington Band Backers President, at 860-276-8820, or the Southington High School Music Department at (860) 628-3229 ext. 250. You can also visit the Blue Knights Marching Band Website at [www.shsbands.com](http://www.shsbands.com).

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