Peters Township music boosters get creative with history

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Hundreds donned the red, white and black Peters Township High School Mighty Indian Marching Band uniforms worn from 2002 to 2015.

From marching at football games and events around McMurray to sporting the uniforms on band trips to Florida, Illinois, Virginia and South Carolina, many alumni fancied the well-traveled uniforms.

To help preserve that history, the Peters Township Music Boosters aren't just trashing the retired uniforms but turning them into tote bags, pillows and hats with plumes to be purchased as birthday and graduation gifts, or to demonstrate the Indian pride through every hand-crafted stitch.

"We didn't want to waste the uniforms," said Erin Campion, vice president of the board. "Turning them into keepsakes and being able to offer tangible ways for alumni, current students, parents and the community to remember the amazing memories spent with the band is super."

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Peters Township Marching Band uniforms were converted into fancy pillows.

An example of the tote bag reused from the old uniforms worn by the Peters Township Marching Band.

After already exceeding the typical shelf-life of a uniform – 10 to 12 years – the marching band has been dressed in new gear since 2016.

"What happened was we started the process of updating our uniforms," said Milt Barney, former director of the marching band. "I honestly don't know what happens when old uniforms get sent out. I think what they're doing is a great idea. The whole point of getting recycled use of the uniforms is being able to keep them circulating throughout the community. I don't think there is a better use than the one we have found."

Selling nearly 80 items already, and approximately 40 remaining hats being sold at $25, pillows at $50 and $75 tote bags, purchases will be used to support the current and future music students who look to carry on the tradition of excellence.

"We were blessed to get new uniforms last year and didn't want to just throw the old ones away," Campion said. "A lot of parents and community members have seen the band march in these uniforms. We did our research and came up with this. It's something to remember your high school care. To some, it's been a big part of their lives for many years.

For more information, contact the Peters Township Music Boosters at ptmb501c3@gmail.com.

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