

## School Beat

May 26, 2007

### Toms River Schools All-City Orchestra Concert Benefits Novins Planetarium

TOMS RIVER - On May 9 at the Ritacco Center the Toms River Regional Schools presented a concert event that combined the orchestras from all three high schools and all three intermediate schools in the school district, for a night of music. There were approximately 500 students participating in the concert and all were supported by parents, grandparents and friends in the audience. The concert served as a fundraiser to collect donations to help save the Novins Planetarium at Ocean County College. Admission into the concert was free, but volunteers from Save the Planetarium Fund Inc. were on hand to welcome concertgoers and accept donations.

After a rousing night of music, Save the Planetarium Fund Inc. was pleased to count \$714 in the direct donation and \$185 in donation checks. These funds will qualify for the "Matching Gift Program" and will be doubled to a total of \$1798. In addition, T-shirts and Ursa Minor Teddy bears with the slogan "I'm Helping to Save the Planetarium" were also sold. The grand total for the evening amounted to \$2038 to help reopen the Novins Planetarium.

Fine Arts Supervisor Kim Defibaugh at Toms River South and one of the organizers of the concert said "The kids chose Save the Planetarium Fund Inc. as this year's charity because they really wanted to help the Novins Planetarium and thought that the Matching Gift Program would be a great way to make their efforts count for that much more." President of the Save the Planetarium Fund Inc. Richard Gamba said, "We are so proud the kids chose our organization, for their fund-raising event. It is community support like this that will make the planetarium stars shine again."

More information about the Novins Planetarium and what the Save the Planetarium Fund Inc. is doing to help, may be found on the organization's website at [www.savetheplanetarium.org](http://www.savetheplanetarium.org).