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LM groups hosting prom fundraiser

By: Nick Malinowski, Staff Writer

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The Lower Moreland High School PTA and the Valley Youth Center are throwing their second annual joint dance party Jan. 30 at the Holiday Inn at 3499 Street Road, Bensalem.

Dance Away the Winter Blues will feature live music from The Exceptions, a buffet, raffles and games, and is a fundraiser to support the Valley Youth Center, located below the Huntingdon Valley Library on Red Lion Road, and Lower Moreland's post prom party for the senior class this spring.

The post prom party, held from midnight to 4 a.m. at the Blair Mill Inn following the dance, provides students with a fun, safer alternative to a late-night drive to the Jersey Shore, post prom committee chairwoman Lisa Class said in an Interview Monday.

Complete with a hypnotist, breakfast buffet and music from a local DJ, the post prom event was organized largely by the students, Class said.

"They picked the DJ, what they want to eat, where they want it," Class said, "It's their event, we're just raising the money for them to have it." Last year approximately 75 percent of the class attended, she said

The PTA has been raising money to cover the cost of this party since last spring, but this fundraiser is one of the biggest draws and is needed to help the group reach its goal of \$10,000, she said.

"A lot of schools have done away with the post prom because of the expense and kids don't want to spend the money. We've made it a free event which encourages most of the students to attend," Class

For the second straight year, the PTA has combined efforts with the Valley Youth Center, and the partnership works since both organizations are "about the kids," Valley Youth Center President Denise Kuritz said in an interview Monday.

"Last year ... I said instead of having two separate events, why not have one joint event. They both help the students in our area," Kuritz said.

The Valley Youth Center hosts local fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders on Fridays, and many other school and community groups, such as the Boy Scouts of America and Brownies, utilize the space, she said. Last year the fundraiser attracted close to 300 people and each organization took home \$3,200, helping the PTA keep the post prom a free event and helping the Valley Youth Center pay off insurance bills, Kuritz said.

Kuritz and Class both expressed some concern about this year's dance party, as only 60 guests have bought tickets so far.

This could lead the PTA to charge students for the post prom event for the first time, which could lower attendance, Class said.

"I think the economy is hitting us hard, and in fundraising in general. It's a tough economy to get something like this up and running, [but] we all feel like it's such an important issue." Class said. "I know it's a very bad year for people, a lot of people are out of work ...," Kuritz said. "Right now I'm a little shocked that we haven't gotten more support for this little fundraiser that is for the kids." Tickets for the adults-only event, which begins at 7 p.m., can be purchased for \$45 from either Kuritz at 267-784-0278 or Class at 215-947-1299. Baby-sitting is available at the Valley Youth Center for children in grades kindergarten through eight. Arrangements must be made in advance by contacting VYC at 215-938-5202

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