



Saturday, April 25, 2009

Police, volunteers provide girls with prom dresses

George Hunter / The Detroit News

Detroit -- A veteran police officer is helping low-income students look like a million bucks on

Prom Night.

Insp. Alicia Terry said she was talking to students at Central High School in the wake of a

recent stabbing there and was saddened to discover many female students weren't planning

to attend their prom because they couldn't afford dresses.

"Every girl should be able to attend their prom, but a lot of these girls just didn't have the money," said Terry, who works at the 10th Precinct. "I decided to do something about it, and

see if I couldn't get people to donate some dresses for them to wear."

Terry said she sent out 10 e-mails to friends, and "it snowballed from there. It's been incredible how much people have helped."

The 22-year veteran said she has received almost 200 new and used dresses from across

the country. "We've gotten dresses from all over: Maryland, North Carolina, Washington,

D.C.," she said. "We collected the dresses and got them cleaned."

Terry is setting up a "store" in the 10th precinct's community room, which will be open from 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. today. "Anyone who needs a dress can come get one," she said. "We have

limited accessories, too: Shoes and purses. The room will be set up just like a real department store."

The tough economy is making it difficult for students to afford proms and other activities, said

parent Denise Floyd.

"In the times we're living in now, there are a lot of students who won't be able to participate in

the prom," said Floyd, whose children attend Cody High School. "We've tried to organize a

skating party but we had to cancel it because not enough students could afford to go. And we've tried three times to go on a senior trip, but it's the same thing: Not enough kids have the money."

Deputy Chief John Clark decided to help male students attend their proms. "He's sponsoring

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<http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Police%2C+volunteers+pro..>
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10 young men," Terry said, adding that President Tuxedo will rent tuxedos at a discount.

Find this article at:

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20090425/METRO01/904250324>

Open today

The prom store will be set up from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in the 10th Precinct, 12000 Livernois Ave. New and used prom dresses are available to any student who wants one. For more information, call Insp. Alicia Terry at (313) 596-1010.

Other efforts

a.. Wayne County Commissioner Alisha Bell also has been collecting prom dresses to ensure needy students will be able to attend their proms. There are several sites that are accepting donations. For more information, call (313) 224-0936. Distribution of the dresses will be from noon to 2 p.m. May 9 at the Boys & Girls Club, 16500 Tireman Ave., Detroit.

a.. Hope Closet, a non-profit organization, provides young women with dresses. Their boutique will be open Saturday through May 2 at the Royal Oak First United Methodist Church in Royal Oak. Appointments are required and can be made by calling (248) 347-1309, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. If you have any questions, would like to make a donation or volunteer, e-mail hopecloset@yahoo.com