

Our experience on Sunday, March 29, 2009 - Via Email

Today, my daughter attended your Princess and the Prom Day. I must tell you from my perspective, it was the most wonderful event that I have ever been to. And, I can tell my daughter felt the same way.

I want to describe our experience and express our gratitude and appreciation to all of you who volunteered their time as well as those of you who donated.

Unfortunately, the last 6 months has been financially tough for our family and buying a \$200-\$300 prom dress was certainly not on my agenda although getting a dress, I realized was of great importance to my high school daughter. When a girlfriend told me about this event, my daughter and I became excited, made our plans and left our home to arrive at the Hotel on Sunday, at approximately 8:45. Yes, we knew that the showing of the dresses did not begin until 11:00 that morning but we did not mind. My daughter was so excited as we entered the Hotel and was greeted by two wonderful women at your sign up table. She handed the young woman her school ID, filled out some papers. The entire process was explained to us in such a very nice manner and any of our questions were answered with a smile.

We were instructed to have a seat in the lobby, waiting room or go have breakfast while we waited until 10:00; the time when they thought things might just get started. We sat in a small conference room where they had "27 Dresses" running for our enjoyment (how appropriate!). This is what I saw and heard in that room, while my daughter waited for her number to be called.

The room was full of excitement, from the moment you walked we left with a dress in hand. The girls, not knowing each other, from many different towns, chattered and shared their "excitement" about when they would be up next. Many spoke of their school's prom date, what they were doing, if they had a boyfriend, etc. It was so nice as a "spectator" to watch and listen to. These girls were a group of young ladies who were beyond excited to go preview dresses that were donated. They did not care that they were "slightly worn". They did not care where it came from, or how much it cost. All these girls cared about, was finding a dress that they liked, they could fit into and feeling good about themselves! It was wonderful to witness.

Onto the "dressing" area. It was so well run, calm, cool, organized and most of all Fun! Even though there was only 30 minutes to find a dress, the girls and mom and most of all the "Escorts" were wonderful -- absolutely wonderful. Patient, helpful and very sweet. I did not find or see one escort without a smile on her face or a look of impatience.

Finding the perfect dress! -- The second dress "was the one". It was beautiful, fit perfect and would soon be my daughter's prom dress. She looked in the mirror, with a smile on her face and I couldn't help but have a tear in my eye. This was such a wonderful program! Accessories were not a "necessity" in my daughter's eyes, therefore, she chose to leave them for other girls to choose from. As we left, she entered her name for the drawing, received a "special bag of goodies" for being one of the first "20" girls to arrived and thanked each woman at the table.

I want each and every one of your volunteers to know that this was an extremely very positive experience for both my daughter and I. I was so impressed with the event, that I would like to placed on a list to volunteer for next next year. The looks of excitement and satisfaction and "specialness" on each girl's face was something that will stay in my mind for a long time. The gratitude that I have for your organization will be with me forever. Thank you for helping us during a time we needed help and most of all, thank you for making my daughter feel so special!

Please keep me informed for the next year when this event begins. I will be more than happy to volunteer my time for your organization and the girls who attend. I want to be a part of that "special" day for them all.

Thank you again.

Lisa Chase
Ellington, CT