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**News**

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**Store gives prom dresses to girls in need**

David Barnhorn • [easternhills@communitypress.com](mailto:easternhills@communitypress.com) • February 17, 2009

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A local shop is giving financially strapped girls the chance to attend prom by fitting them in dresses at no cost.

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Kenzie's Closet receives donated dresses and accessories, which the non-profit organization gives the girls to keep, according to Executive Director Brynne Coletti, of Indian Hill.

The girls get a full outfit including shoes, jewelry, purses and any needed alterations, Coletti said.

The boutique's 2009 season runs now through May, she said.

"We look like an upscale boutique," said Coletti. "That's what we want them to feel like."

The boutique, located at 2010 Madison Road in O'Bryonville, hopes to let girls in need go to prom who otherwise could not afford to go, Coletti said.

Recipients must be referred by a school or social worker to verify their situation, she said.

"One way to conserve money is not to do this huge expensive (event)," Coletti said.

Michelle Radolph, 17, of College Hill, said, "It's giving me a great opportunity to go to prom."

Keshia Miracle, 17, of Middletown, said she learned about the program at her school. Miracle was unable to attend her junior prom.

"It's very exciting for me too to see these girls and see how happy they are," said Irma Becker of Mt. Adams, a first-year volunteer.

Appearance Plus Cleaners receives, cleans and stores all the dresses for Kenzie's Closet, Coletti said.

Debbie Heitzman, general manager of the cleaners, said they collect and clean 800-1,000 dresses a year.

The company offers free pickup and delivery, she said.

"(The) biggest thing is we are very passionate about giving back," said Heitzman, of Anderson Township.

The shop is named for Kenzie Comisar, who was killed in a car accident, said Coletti.

The organization started after she helped a girl find a dress for prom one year,

Coletti said.

The following year more people needed help finding a dress, which led to the idea of Kenzie's Closet, Coletti said.

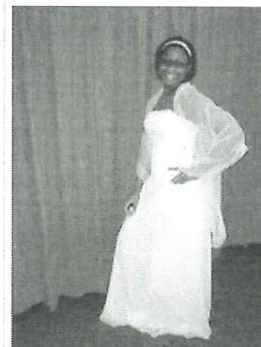
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David Barnhorn/Intern  
Left to right, Debbie Heitzman and Angie Miller of Appearance Plus Cleaners and Brynne Coletti of Kenzie's Closet stand in front of a dress rack in the non-profit organization's boutique.



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Michelle Radolph, 17, of College Hill poses in her dress from Kenzie's Closet for her April prom.  
(David Barnhorn/Intern)



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Keshia Miracle, 17, of Middletown poses in the dress she chose from Kenzie's Closet for her May prom.  
(David Barnhorn/Intern)

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