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Donations make prom dreams come true

Fairy godmothers gathering dresses, accessories

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Cinderella's Closet founder Erin Peterson and volunteer Katie Young admire the sequin top on a donated dress. / Amy Scalf/The Community Recorder

LAKESIDE PARK — Erin Peterson thinks every girl should have a fairy tale prom experience.

So, for the seventh year in a row, she and her band of fairy godmothers are gathering prom dresses and accessories for Cinderella's Closet of Northern Kentucky.

Community Dress Drive Day will take place on Saturday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church, 2551 Dixie Highway in Lakeside Park.

The items collected for the event include rhinestone jewelry, formal purses, strappy high heel formal shoes and new or gently used prom dresses purchased after 2008.

More than a dozen local high schools in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties have hosted dress drives for this year.

Additional information and a list of year-round dress donation sites are listed at [www.cinderellas closetusa.org](http://www.cinderellasclosetusa.org).

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Girls will get to visit the temporary boutique for their choice from about 3,000 different dresses on Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24, at the same location.

Peterson says girls who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford going to the prom are referred by their school counselors and other agencies for an appointment at Cinderella's Closet where personal shoppers or "Fairy Godmothers" will help them find the dress of their dreams.

"We give them dresses, yes, but we are there to shower them with grace and love and to let them know how special and loved and how beautiful they are," said Peterson. "The girls never carry

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anything at Cinderella's Closet and are waited on like the princesses they are. Everything is free and theirs to keep.”

Peterson said dress alterations are offered, also free of charge, on site before the girl leaves.

“Her visit to Cinderella's Closet should be one of the best days of her life,” said Peterson. “I want them to have an amazing experience there and feel equal to their peers, but most of all I want them to feel cherished. I want them to only hear words of encouragement from us. I want them to know they are loved in this world and how amazing they are.”

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