



# Becca's Closet in East Stroudsburg helps girls go to prom in style

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Nicole Grimaldi, left, and Alyssa Warrington, students at East Stroudsburg High School-South with a couple of the prom dresses they collected for Becca's Closet. At right, a look at two of the donated gowns.

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By **Melanie Vanderveer**  
Pocono Record Writer  
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"Prom is one of the biggest memories in high school and everyone should be able to enjoy it without the constant worry of the expenses," said Nicole Grimaldi, East Stroudsburg Chapter Organizer of Becca's Closet. "No one should be embarrassed that they cannot afford a dress for prom."

Becca's Closet is a nonprofit organization that donates dresses to girls who cannot afford the high costs of going to the prom.

The organization was started by Rebecca Kirtman from Davie, Fla. During her freshman year, she organized a dress drive to provide prom dresses and accessories to girls who couldn't afford it. The following year, she single-handedly collected and donated more than 250 prom dresses.

Kirtman died tragically in an automobile accident in 2003 at age 16. Her family and friends are keeping her name and spirit alive by continuing her efforts with Becca's Closet.

This is where Grimaldi and friend Alyssa Warrington come in. Both juniors at East Stroudsburg High School-South, the girls took over the local chapter three years ago.

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"Courtney Sazini started the chapter, and Alyssa and I took it over from her when we were freshman," Grimaldi said. "I decided to get involved in this because it is a good thing to do. We were originally going to just do this for our senior project, but that changed."

The girls volunteer their time for the cause because they feel it hits home.

"Alyssa and I both think that prom is overpriced, and that's why no one should be ashamed of not being able to afford the high expenses," Grimaldi said. "After buying a ticket, shoes, purse, dress, getting your hair and nails done, transportation and do something after the prom, it can really add up and cost around \$2,000."

This year, the girls have been busier than ever collecting dresses. E-mails have been constantly coming in with donations of prom dresses.

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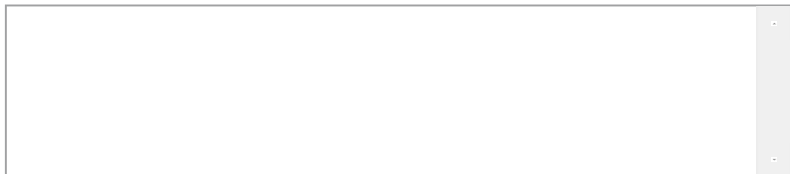
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