

THE NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW

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Prom Project Niagara needs your help

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Make room in your closet, and support a worthy cause.

The Education Foundation of Niagara has launched Prom Project Niagara to match young people with formal wear.

By referral, students in Grades 8 through 12 who cannot afford to outfit themselves in dresses or suits can select a free outfit for their formal or graduation ceremony at the Quality Hotel in St. Catharines on May 2 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Organizers are now looking to the community to donate new and gently used clothing.

"There are a lot of dress and formal wear stores in Niagara that can afford to donate a few outfits for this purpose," added Julie Densham, executive director of the Education Foundation of Niagara.

Locally, new or used clothing can be dropped off at Royal Professional Dry Cleaners on Portage Road, Yazz Cleaners & Quick Stitch on Lundy's Lane and Pike Dry Cleaners in Fort Erie.

"There are hundreds of kids who would just choose not to go to their formal, prom or graduation day because they can't afford to buy the latest design or trend," Densham said.

"When the economy takes a dive, the kids are the worst hit with one in seven living in relative poverty."

Tom Reynolds, event chairman and principal of Crystal Beach Public School, agrees.

"Poverty isn't just about not being able to afford something, it's about the stigma that comes with it," he said.

For further information, call the foundation at 905-641-2929 ext. 4107 or visit www.efnonline.ca.

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