

Dreams come true at the JCCF

Event provides fashion statement for teenage girls

Barbara King

Eleven teenage girls went home with dreams fulfilled after the third annual Confidence Project concluded Saturday afternoon.

"We found the perfect fit for each of the girls," summed up Leslie Bradshaw Davisson, co-founder of the initiative which aims to provide formal wear for high school girls who otherwise might not be able to afford the appropriate-and, of course, glamorous-outfits every teen hopes to wear to their junior-senior Prom.

Kristen O'Connor, who came up with this novel idea to help teens, was also on hand, arriving soon after the doors opened.

"It's a lifesaver," said mom Melissa Redkey about the event held at the Jennings County Community Foundation office and sponsored by its Women's Giving Circle.

"If it weren't for this...a lot of kids wouldn't be able to go to the Prom," Redkey continued, including her daughter Melissa, who was in the dressing room trying on one of several evening gowns she had selected for the milestone event.

Also available were shoes and glittering jewelry to complete the look.

Then, on the day of the Prom, Sisters Floral has volunteered to make free corsages for the 11 young ladies.

Two hair stylists have also volunteered their services for hair and make-up, but one more is needed, said Leslie.

If you are a teen or know a teen who would like to pick a dress to wear, it is not too late. Just contact The Confidence Project through its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/confproj and your date with fashion can be arranged.

If you are a hairdresser and would like to volunteer your expertise on Prom day, contact Leslie through the above address.

In closing, Leslie had a special thanks to those volunteering this past Saturday.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to the volunteers who helped each young lady feel special as she said "Yes to the dress!"

"We had a great group of women who helped set up, pick out dresses and do alterations."



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Tiffany Redkey, left, adds her opinion as her mom Melissa and volunteer Pam Lovegrove go through the dress rack to choose items for the teen to try on.—Staff Photos by Barbara King



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Leslie Bradshaw Davisson and pal Sheryl Deaton signal all is well as the doors open for The Confidence Project on Saturday afternoon. Davisson and another friend, Kristen O'Connor, came up with the idea to make it easier for teens to attend the prom three years ago.