

Local Catholic starts prom season non-profit

By Jon Reddy
OF THE SENTINEL

While Sally Egland's daughter Abby was cleaning out her closet, she found her high school prom dresses in hibernation.

Sally, a member of Church of the Resurrection in Tualatin, had read somewhere about organizations that collect old prom dresses and give them away, but when she started calling around Portland, she found that there wasn't anything local.

Charities told her that they would love to collect prom dresses, but they take up a lot of room and only get picked up once a year.

"People started telling me, 'You should just start your own non-profit,'" Egland said.

So she did.

Abby's Closet has been collecting new or gently used formal dresses and accessories all month and plans to distribute them to Portland area high-school teens for prom.

Dresses will be given to the girls, at no charge, while supplies last. Organizers anticipate that more than 400 dresses will be needed. All donations are tax-deductible.

Volunteers have been helping with the collection of the dresses, organizing them by size and making sure they are clean and intact.

More than a dozen Portland area schools are involved, including Central Catholic, La Salle High School and Valley Catholic.

"Girls who can't afford a dress are welcome to come and get a dress," said Egland. All the girls have to do is show their student body card.

The dress giveaway will be April 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel, near the Portland Convention Center. The hotel donated the space for the giveaway.

For more information, call Abby's Closet at (503) 636-7900 or www.abbyscloset.org. ❖



Abby's Closet photo

Sally Egland and her daughter Abby hold up a donated dress.