



# abby's closet

## Our First Six Months

abby's closet's first six months as a nonprofit organization have been simply amazing! Thanks to the efforts of our hard-working Board of Directors, all of our volunteers, business partners and many very generous women, we collected over 1,000 prom gowns in just 4 months. Our first annual Prom Boutique (give-away event), held on April 3 at the Red Lion Hotel-Portland Convention Center, was also a huge success. Hundreds of young women received beautiful prom gowns, shoes and wraps that they wore to their high school proms. As the girls were leaving the Prom Boutique, we invited them to share any comments they had. Many of the girls (and Moms) wrote us very special notes. Here's a sampling:

*"This event was wonderful. The cheerful people made the experience well worth it. And because of this I see how people can come together and help others."*

*"My daughter will now be able to attend prom in a new dress that we wouldn't have been able to afford. Thanks for helping her hold her head high and for putting such a large smile on her face!"*

*"Holy Cow. This was amazing. I got a great dress that makes me feel so good about myself. Even my flaws. I'm amazing, you're amazing. Thank you."*

*"Thank you for making my prom a dream come true! I feel like a princess. It was well worth the effort you put into this to make so many girls happy! Keep up the good work."*

Thanks to everyone who helped these girls' prom dreams come true! Please continue to collect dresses (drop-off sites are listed on our website) and spread the word about our mission. As we start planning for next year, please be sure to share any suggestions or ideas you might have:

[abbyscloset@comcast.net](mailto:abbyscloset@comcast.net)

Have a wonderful summer!

- Sally and Abby Egland  
Co-Founders



Prom Boutique -  
Reading the Girls' Comments

## Come See Us At The "Race for the Cure" Health Expo (Sept. 16-17)

abby's closet will have a booth at the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation "Race for the Cure" Health Expo, Sept. 16 & 17<sup>th</sup>, Oregon Convention Center. We will be handing out flyers advertising our cause and publicizing the need for prom dress donations. Be sure to come visit us.



Prom Boutique Volunteers -  
Harmony, Abby, Nina, Michelle, Natalie and Lauren

## A Special Prom Dress Donation

We have heard so many wonderful stories from girls whose lives we've touched. But, there is one special story from a woman who made the very difficult decision to donate her prom dress. Here's the note she enclosed with the dress:

*"Thanks for your work collecting prom dresses. This is such a great program. My prom was in 1985 and I have hung on to my beloved dress through over 10 moves - though never worn it again. My family was going through particularly difficult financial time when I was in high school and I never went to school dances. I went to school with some of the richest kids in the country but*

*always got my clothes at thrift stores - and they never had formals or party dresses. My dearest guy friend invited me to senior prom. His family had lots of money and he had his tux made for him. After several depressing shopping trips with my mom, I saw this dress hanging in the window of an antique store. I assumed it would never fit, would be too expensive and/or would show my chicken pox scar. Amazingly, this hand-made California designer dress from the 1950's was priced within my small budget, fit me perfectly, and covered the scar I was so embarrassed about. This elegant, full-length dress was "retro" even in 1985, but it was the absolute hit of the prom (and my prom pictures don't look as silly as the girls' who wore the enormous shoulder pads that were the trendy thing then). I have never owned another piece of clothing so special. I hope it helps fulfill another girl's prom dreams. Thanks again for starting this great program."*

## Thank you, Kuni BMW

Thanks to Kuni BMW for inviting us to help celebrate the grand opening of their beautiful new showroom on Canyon and Hwy. 217 in Beaverton, Oregon. [Kuni has been a donation drop-off site for us.] We especially appreciated the opportunity to share information about our organization with your many guests. We also thank all of the women at Kuni who very generously donated the beautiful gowns they wore that evening. Thank you so much!!



Nike Volunteers -  
Sorting and Boxing Donations

## FUN FACTS

Number of girls who attended Boutique: 265  
Number of schools represented: 64  
Furthest distance traveled for a dress: 82 miles (Wahtonka High School, The Dalles)  
Number of dresses collected: 1002  
Number of dresses given away: 295  
Number of volunteers involved: over 70

## Helping prom dreams come true ...

Abby's Closet, Inc. is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.  
Our Mission: To collect prom dresses, and distribute them (free of charge) to girls in the Portland-metro area who might be unable to attend their prom due to the cost.  
Email: [abbyscloset@comcast.net](mailto:abbyscloset@comcast.net) Phone: 503.636.7900  
Website: [www.abbyscloset.org](http://www.abbyscloset.org)

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