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### 'Belle Of Ball' Project To Give Out Free Prom Dresses In Racine

#### **Organization Wants Girls To Enjoy Big Event**

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**RACINE, Wis.** -- For some, the slumping economy is casting a shadow on a springtime tradition -- prom. Not everyone can afford a nice dress to wear.



But one Racine woman wants every girl to have a perfect prom, even if money is tight.

"We have 250 dresses, short, long, sparkly, anything, anyone would want," Belle of the Ball founder Krystyna Serrazin said.

Serrazin founded the Belle of the Ball organization four years ago in Racine to give girls the prom of their dreams even if they can't afford it.

This year, the economy has pushed up donations and demand.

"I would say that's a big reason too. Girls know the expense of prom and that might lead them to not go," Serrazin said.

Not going is not an option for many in Racine, where prom is a big event.

A documentary film was done on the elaborate celebration that includes a parade and red carpet.

"My prom was a disaster, blind date and all, but another part was that I didn't really feel pretty in my dress -- the biggest part of prom for any girl," WISN 12 News reporter Portia Young said.

That's why she has the latest styles and colors, some still wearing the tags.

The girls pick out their dresses during a boutique show filled with professionals.

"We have hair and makeup representatives to show them how to do their hair and makeup to show them how to apply it," Serrazin said.

Along with accessories, there's also a seamstress to make the dress a perfect fit.

If you would like to attend the Belle of the Ball boutique and are in need of a free prom dress, just head to St. Mary's Hospital, 3801 Spring Road in downtown Racine from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, visit [www.racineprom.org](http://www.racineprom.org).

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