

Donate prom dresses to 'Belle of the Ball'

Anton's Cleaners of Melrose is asking Melrose residents to donate gently worn prom dresses for the sixth annual Belle of the Ball prom dress collection program.

The program, which provides a free prom dress/gown to young women who could not otherwise afford one, runs from now through Thursday, April 1.

In Melrose, prom dresses can be dropped off at the store at 888 Main St., Melrose. "We appreciate every donated prom dress," says Anton's Melrose store manager Stephen Staffieri.

The dresses can be any size, but must be free of damage, only "gently worn" and cannot be more than 3-4 years old. The prom dresses are dry-cleaned free

of charge by Anton's, and in mid-April, a boutique takes place in Boston where girls will "shop" for free dresses.

Attending the event is by invitation only, and students must be pre-qualified for the program by guidance counselors, teachers and social service agency personnel. At the boutique, volunteer personal shoppers assist each participant select the perfect dress. At last year's boutique, 350 girls got to choose from more than 2,000 donated dresses.

Businesses and schools interested in helping with Belle of the Ball, either by collecting dresses, assisting with the boutique, or making in-kind donations of shoes, purses and other accessories, should contact Danielle DiGiovanni at 1-800-659-0069 x26 or danielle@graham-comm.com.

For more information, contact Anton's Cleaners in Melrose at 781-665-9874 or visit antons.com.

