



1705 Washtenaw Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Business Phone: 734-662-2265  
Fax: 734-662-9724  
[www.ozonehouse.org](http://www.ozonehouse.org)

**Ozone House** *Providing a safe place since 1969*

May 15, 2007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Amy Wiseman**  
Communications Coordinator  
Ozone House Youth & Family Services  
734-662-2265 x 25  
[awiseman@ozonehouse.org](mailto:awiseman@ozonehouse.org)

### **OZONE HOUSE PROVIDES OVER 20 YOUTH IN NEED WITH PROM DRESSES, ACCESSORIES**

#### ***First-ever Prom Exchange considered a successful event***

**ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI, MI-** Ozone House Youth & Family Services held its first-ever Prom Exchange last Wednesday and Thursday nights, providing over 20 youth in need with dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories they otherwise may have been unable to afford.

Ozone House staff and volunteers collected gently used formal wear and accessories. Clients were able to “shop” at Ozone House’s main facility on Washtenaw and at the Ypsilanti Drop-In Center.

Community response to a call for dresses and suits was instrumental in the event’s success, said Ozone House Education Coordinator Syreeta Jemison, who organized the prom exchange.

“We collected 166 formal dresses, twelve dress jackets and four pairs of pants, 25 pairs of shoes, ten purses, and an assortment of jewelry & accessories,” said Jemison. “We were able to collect a variety of sizes, from zero to 24. We also had one generous woman who offered to buy a dress for a client who was unable to find a dress she liked that fit. Hopefully they will go shopping together next weekend.”

Jemison also thanked Dots clothing store on Ellsworth Road and Marshall’s in Arborland for donating sizing disks, making it easy to organize the dress collection by size.

The shoppers appreciated the both the opportunity and the variety they were offered: “I picked my dress because it was beautiful. It looks like it was made just for me!” one shopper stated. “Everyone (at Ozone House) was so kind and warm,” said another. The last shopper may have summed up the event the best: “This is special to me because I really wanted to go to prom and I didn’t have a dress to go. Thank you, Ozone!”

*Ozone House is a community-based nonprofit agency dedicated to providing safety, shelter, and a continuum of support services to runaway, homeless and high-risk youth in our community. Our services are voluntary and free of charge. In 2006, Ozone House provided shelter to 110 young people and continuing support services to 670 young people and their families. Our volunteers fielded more than 1,300 crisis calls. For more information, please visit us at [www.ozonehouse.org](http://www.ozonehouse.org).*

***If you are interested in photos from the Prom Exchange, please contact Amy Wiseman.***

###