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Safe place. Real support.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OZONE HOUSE PROVIDES OVER 65 YOUTH IN NEED WITH PROM DRESSES, SUITS, ACCESSORIES

Second Annual Prom Exchange a successful and meaningful event

ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI, MI - Ozone House Youth & Family Services held its second annual Prom Exchange last Tuesday and Thursday nights, providing over 65 youth in need with dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories all free of charge. Prom Exchange allows many youth in our community, who might otherwise be unable to attend prom, a chance to find something special to wear and enjoy a fun and memorable prom night.

Thanks to the generosity of friends and neighbors in our community, we collected more than 300 formal dresses and men's suits, together with shoes, an assortment of fun makeup, jewelry & accessories. Clients were able to "shop" for free at Ozone House's main facility in Ann Arbor and at the Youth Drop-In Center in Ypsilanti. Because we received a generous collection of dresses in sizes from zero to 28, each young person was able to find something special that not only fit, but fit their individual style and who they are.

"Our community's overwhelming response to the call for formal wear was instrumental in the event's success," said Ozone House Case Manager Syreeta Jemison, who organized the Prom Exchange.

Ozone House extends a special thank you to all those who contributed, and to Cannon's Suit Warehouse in Ypsilanti for loaning two sturdy clothing racks to enhance the shopping experience.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of school officials, counselors, and parents, we were able to get the word out to hundreds of youth in need. Prom Exchange shoppers came from nearly every high school in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area.

While many shoppers look forward to prom as a night to look their best and celebrate their successes, attending senior prom has special significance to one particular young person, as she is the first in her family to earn a high school diploma. Prom Exchange volunteers reported that it was wonderful to see young people's faces glowing when they emerged from the dressing room in the perfect outfit.

Ozone House is a community-based nonprofit agency dedicated to providing a safe place, 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 2007, Ozone House provided shelter and transitional housing to 144 youth, counseling and related supports to 746 youth and their families, nearly 10,000 meals and other basic needs support, and street outreach through peers to 1,418 high-risk youth. Our crisis line volunteers fielded 1,707 calls; at least 50% of those calls came from homeless youth in need of shelter.

For more information, please visit us at www.ozonehouse.org.

For photos from the 2008 Prom Exchange, or for more information, please contact Susan Kirtz.

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