



When you wish upon a star
Makes no difference who you are
Anything your heart desires
Will come to you
If your heart is in your dream
No request is too extreme
When you wish upon a star
As dreamers do
Fate is kind
She brings to those to love
The sweet fulfillment of
Their secret longing
Like a bolt out of the blue
Fate steps in and sees you through
When you wish upon a star
Your dreams come true
By Cliff Edwards

Graduation; imagine the anxiety and financial hardships our youngsters face with the pressures of keeping up appearances as they launch themselves into the next phase of their lives as they graduate from Grade Eight or formally graduate from Grade Twelve.

The goal of the Wish Upon a Star Project is to assist young ladies and young men, who may have economic difficulties in attending their prom. The Project is non-profit organization comprised of volunteers who would like to see all students to be able to have fond memories of their high school years, with a little bit of help, to leave their school years with style and glamour as they transition into great things.

What started out as a dream became a reality at the Parkway Place Banquet Hall on May 1, 2005 for the founders of the Wish Upon a Star Project.

From start to finish, the 'Gala' was well coordinated, providing racks of beautiful, previously enjoyed gowns, suits, shirts, to tables of shoes, fancy purses, jewelry and makeup. Seamstresses altered the selected clothing if required, and certificates distributed to those whom the Project was unable to attire.

For some students and their families, it was as if their fairy godmothers had appeared to make their dreams come true. In this case there are three fairy godmothers. The first, Laurie Eccles, who had heard about the Cinderella Project in the United States and took hold onto the idea to implement as a comparable opportunity for the children in her community. Laurie introduced the concept to her friends, Cindy Cross and Marianne Kelly.

Together they coordinated sponsorship, gathered clothing and accessories, rounded up volunteers, and visited schools to announce this wonderful (confidential) opportunity.

On the day of the 'Gala', the energy and excitement filled the air, as the many volunteers gathered together to get their last minute assignments. The main goal was to ensure that the young ladies and gentlemen that had been invited to the 'Gala' would leave feeling happy and confident with their attire, and ready to attend their graduation parties with style and flare.

This was truly genuine success story. Not only were the thirty-six newly outfitted graduates, their families and organizers delighted; the many volunteers even had tears in their eyes as they shared in the joy and enthusiasm of the rewarding experience.

The goal this year will be to outfit at least fifty graduating students. Once again, the Project will be seeking the support of our community to meet the needs of our graduates. From sponsorship and cash donations for Tuxedo rentals and accessories, to the donations of evening gowns, shoes and purses costume jewelry, new cosmetics, new undergarments and hosiery.

The Wish upon A Star Project will be holding its Second Annual 'Gala' at the Holiday Inn on George Street, Peterborough on Sunday April 30, 2006.

Patricia Weafer

For more information, visit <http://www.wishuponastar.ca>.