



Rachel Sutherland

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## Prom Project helps girls dress up

Attention prom-goers: If you can spare an hour, Janine Davis has a dress for you.

The WPEG radio personality and founder of the nonprofit Girl Talk Foundation is getting ready to launch the seventh annual Prom Project, which connects donated gowns and accessories with students in the greater Charlotte area.

Collection of new (and nearly new) dresses begins Monday, and culminates April 4 at ImaginOn uptown. That day, participants must attend a one-hour etiquette class where they'll be reminded of proper table manners, respectful behavior and even how to dance in the dress they're about to receive.



"Sure you can drop it like it's hot," Davis says, "But what kind of message is that sending?"

And don't be tricked into thinking "nearly new" means anything less than fabulous. Designer labels abound. One year, there was a Versace gown.

Janine Davis

At the April 4 event, there will be a fashion show and experts sharing tips on how to properly dress specific body types.

Davis, 42, is a powerhouse multitasker and champion of empowerment, especially for young girls. The prom dress drive, which last year had more than 250 participants (and more than 600 dresses – the extras were donated to appropriate charities), is just one of the ways her foundation reaches out in a cool, big sister kind of way.

She was moved to start Girl Talk (the motto is “teaching today's girls to be tomorrow's leaders”) when Davis heard her 10-year-old niece say she wanted to be a dancer in a video. “I want (girls) to be conscious thinkers, to be impactful,” she says.

And the prom project is a great way to get the message out.

“Seeing the girls smile and be so excited, for some of them, it's their first time being dressed up, having their hair done by a professional,” Davis says.

“It's just like a girl on her wedding day – all eyes are on you.”

## More Information



GIRL TALK FOUNDATION, INC.

Girl Talk Prom Project  
[www.girltalkfoundationinc.com](http://www.girltalkfoundationinc.com)

*Donations will be accepted Monday-April 2 at the following locations. Visit [girltalkfoundationinc.com](http://girltalkfoundationinc.com) for hours and to register.*

South County Regional Library 5801 Rea Road.

North County Regional Library, 16500 Holly Crest Lane, Huntersville

Morrison Regional Library, 7015 Morrison Blvd.

Eileen Experience The Shop, 1800 Camden Road, Suite 102

WPEG-FM, 1520 South Blvd, Suite 300

ImaginOn, 300 E. Seventh Street (through April 3)