

CINDERELLA STORY

SENIOR GETS FAIRYTALE ENDING THROUGH CINDERELLA DAY PROGRAM

BY FAITH DUTTON

It started as just a free dress for prom. It evolved into a fairy godmother who ensured young women in need would have glass slippers that never disappear.

The mission of Seacoast church's Cinderella Day is to provide girls with prom luxuries free of cost, giving girls confidence in their beauty past the stroke of midnight.

"We want them to feel like... they are the most important girl in the whole world," the chair of the Cinderella Day committee, Alysha Brown, said.

The Cinderellas are given a dress, shoes, jewelry and the opportunity to have their hair and makeup done by Paul Mitchell who donated their services.

"We want them to take away that they are beautiful and that they are seen and that they matter, no matter what their circumstances are," Brown said.

The 2016 event brought in just under 300 girls from all backgrounds and circumstances from the Charleston area.

One of these Cinderellas was **Sheyenne Morris**, 12.

Sheyenne has Down Syndrome and said she

remembers the joy Cinderella Day brought her.

Sheyenne's mother, Julie Morris, discovered Cinderella Day through a Facebook page and saw it as an opportunity to give her daughter an incredible experience, one she wouldn't have been able to get on her own.

"She has been to Cinderella Day before," Julie said, "but it always feels like the first day for her."

Sheyenne attended the event with Julie. Afterwards, Sheyenne said she felt pure joy as she was dancing at prom.

Cinderella day made her feel "beautiful and glad."

Julie noticed how happy Sheyenne felt being transformed into a Cinderella.

"She absolutely loved it because she felt like she was the only girl there when the volunteers were with her and it just excited her so much," Julie said.

Her mom said she also experienced feelings of joy. "I felt proud to be a mom,"

Julie said, recalling when she saw her daughter walked out, fully decked out in mint green princess decorum. "She felt as pretty as all the other girls there," Julie said.

The moment Julie said she felt the most intense pride was when Sheyenne was announced at a special event by the 95SX FM news station crew after getting ready for the big event.

"When she came out with her dress on... the news station made a big deal over her and announced her as if she was the only one there," Julie said, "She absolutely loved all the attention."

After the event, Sheyenne and Julie went to Outback to feast with Sheyenne's class before going to the ball.

These emotions are exactly what Brown said she hopes to achieve through Cinderella day; to the committee, this event is more than just a dress.

"For us, it's really the heart and the passion and being a light for these girls," Brown said.

"WE WANT THEM TO TAKE AWAY THAT THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL."



Morris

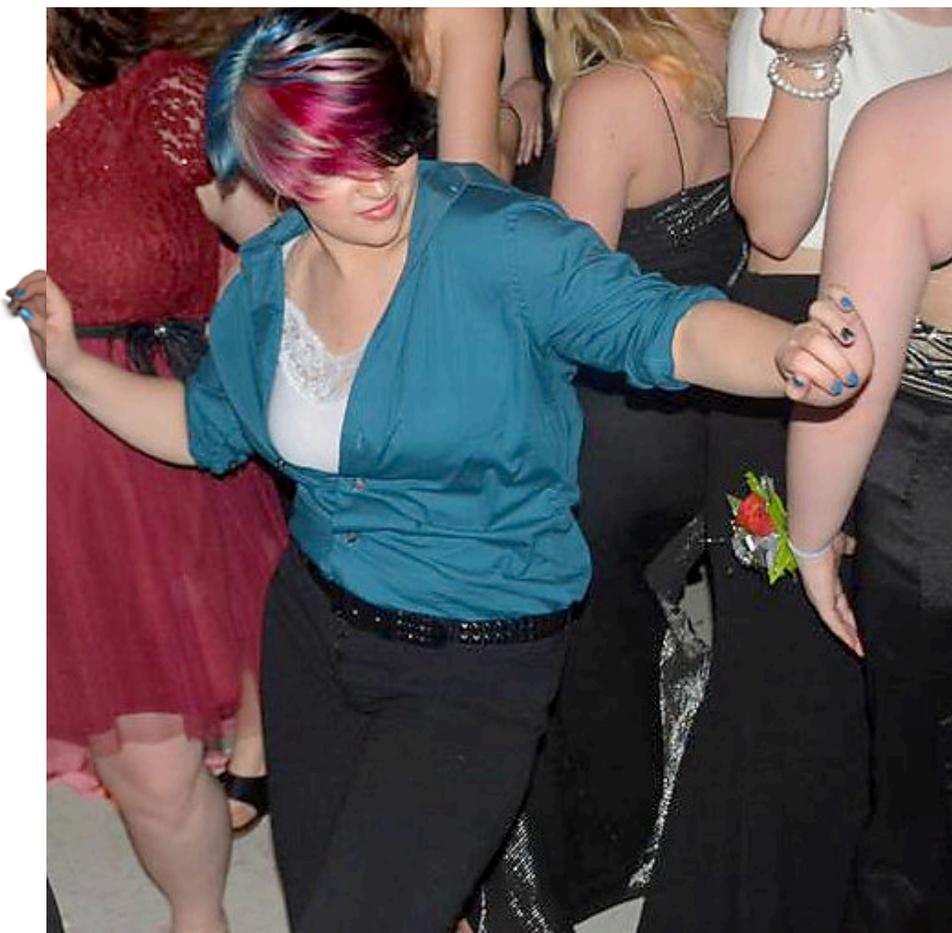
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photographer m. jung

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TRIM LINE



designers d. armstrong, m. peterseim; photographer m. fleming



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DO THE RAINBOW SHUFFLE: (left) **Paige Marcum**, 12, rocks out to an upbeat song during prom. "I bought a nice blue button up shirt and tie... I was the most comfortable person there," Marcum said.

THE ROYAL PORTRAIT: (top) **Jimmy Warren**, 12, shows his excitement after being crowned prom prince. "I wasn't surprised when I won... I was 99 percent positive I was going to win... It boosted my ego," Warren said.

HANDS IN THE AIR: (above) **Andy Klein**, 12, laughs as she and her friend sing along to a favorite prom song. "I was kind of expecting prom to not be fun... but it was definitely super fun. I ended up dancing the whole night with my friends," Klein said.

TRIM LINE



ISN'T SHE LOVELY: (inset) Cameron Allen, 12, and CC Clayton, 12, twirl around the dance floor during the Gatsby-themed night. "Prom definitely exceeded my expectations; it was a lot of fun. Even though a lot of my friends left after the king and queen were announced, I still stayed and enjoyed myself," Allen said.

photographer m. fleming



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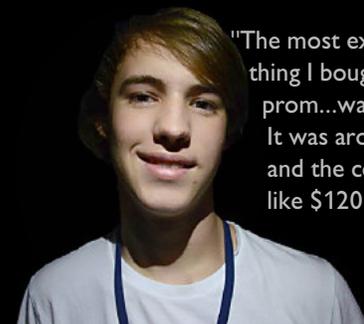


photographer m. jung

LAST DANCE: (left) Cole Whitman, grad, busts a move with friends during his senior prom. "It was a cool environment, but honestly just being around everyone you know and having a good time is what makes prom so much fun," Whitman said.
BLUE TIE EVENT: (above right) Frankie Antonelli, 12, and Katie Spears, 12, laugh and dance together during the fun-filled gala. "I loved dancing and singing with my friends because I'm a superstar," Antonelli said.
I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND: (right) Kacey Fordyce, 12, and Hannah Holloway, 12, share a memorable dance on their special night. "I was very disappointed that not a lot of people dressed up to the theme... a masquerade theme would be really cool," Holloway said.

JUBILANT

COLEMAN WALLACE



"The most expensive thing I bought for prom...was a tuxedo. It was around \$200 and the corsage was like \$120."

MARI KOZERENKO



"The most expensive thing for prom I bought was my dress...I got it last minute."