



PROJECT PROM 2017

A Tikkun Olam Mitzvah



Project Prom 2017 was an enormous success, exceeding our committee's expectations. This annual event, hosted with our partners from Central Synagogue and Park Avenue Synagogue, provides dresses, shoes, handbags, makeup and jewelry to young women, giving them the formal attire to wear to their high school proms or graduation ceremonies.

This year, 250 young women visited our two-day event. There were so many smiling faces as our caring volunteers assisted our guests in trying on dresses that made them look and feel so pretty, so radiant and so confident! All the girls shopped till they dropped and left with a special tote bag for carrying their merchandise home. Temple Emanu-El also provided snacks and a water bottle for the girls before they left.

More than 500 new dresses were donated by Bari Jay, B. Darlin, Blake & Company, Faviana, Jasmine Enterprises, Jovani, Mori Lee, Pride & Joys/Olivia Matthews, Vera Wang and ZAC Zac Posen. Shoes were donated by Beacon's Closet, Crossroads Trading, Qupid and Shoes for All/SFA, and 100 handbags were donated by Steve Madden. We received donations of jewelry from Miriam Haskell, Isaac Mizrahi and the Vetta Group. Cosmetics were donated by Beauty editors from *Harper's Bazaar*, *Seventeen* and *Town & Country* magazines, as well as Cosmetic Executive Women, Elf Cosmetics, Floss Gloss

and Tru Fragrance. Our Project Prom committee is extremely grateful for these vendors and to the people who worked so hard in obtaining these donations.

My sincerest thanks to Debbie Halperin, Jodi Isman, Dana Covey and Eileen Melniker; Project Prom would not have been a success without their commitment, devotion and love. My thanks, also, to all our volunteers, who helped set up, assist as stylists and clean up, and who were so kind and compassionate to our guests. In addition, all of this would not have been possible without the support of our temple staff; we are so grateful for their help.

It is rewarding to know that we can touch these girls' lives by helping to make their upcoming proms and graduations a memory they will cherish. Project Prom is a perfect example of how our efforts provide meaningful and fulfilling mitzvot through the Tikkun Olam Committee of Temple Emanu-El, expressing our compassion and caring for our community through social action intended to make life better for others.

~ **Susan Kaufman**, Tikkun Olam Chair

Project Prom is a part of the Tikkun Olam Program, which receives all of its annual funding through donations made by our members to Temple Emanu-El's Philanthropic Fund.