

This month's Villager theme regarding mothers could not have been more fitting for our April program presented by Abby and Sally Eglund, co-founders of Abby's closet. Truly, a wonderful mother-daughter story. Their story began in 2004 when Abby was leaving for college and wanted to ensure her favorite pink prom dress could still bring joy to someone else and give the dress the opportunity to dance again.

Founding Abby's Closet with her mom Sally, the 17 year old non-profit has hosted more than a decade of Prom Dress Giveaways for over 30,000 students from more than 250 schools in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The spirit and mission of Abby's closet is to make the girls feel accepted, beautiful, and confident. The event held in the spring in 60,000 sq foot space at the convention center holds 7,000 dresses and gowns donated from around the country. The magic begins as the girls try on the dresses. They stood taller, twirled around, feeling accepted, beautiful and confident. Many for the first time.

Just as they were ready to have their Portland event last March, they had to cancel due to the pandemic. The organization with their Sharing the Love project serving underserved communities in Oregon and Washington that are too far away for the girls to come into Portland for the event. The volunteers packed 2500 dresses in nice boxes including some surprises like special feel good cards, sample make-up, nail polish, and accessories. These boxes were mailed to 19 schools for distribution.

They believe in education and have established a student advisory board where students can get involved with Abby's closet and learn about non-profits. They have also set up scholarships for high school seniors.

This year our own, Darlene Crosby and Lee Harker will assist with judging the applicants.

There are five ways you can get involved:

- 1) Subscribe to Abby's closet to receive their monthly newsletter for more information. Abby'sCloset.org.
- 2) Follow them on social media at abby'scloset@pdx
- 3) As a business owner, become a drop off site for collection of dresses or sponsor the next year's event.
- 4) Donate a dress, short or long, either you, your daughter, or granddaughter might have that you want to share or purchase new. They especially need size 15 and above. They also accept prom appropriate shoes, sparkling jewelry, and formal hand bags.
- 5) Make a contribution to Abby's Closet in funds or time volunteering.

The non-profit works with other non-profits and corporate sponsors which they are very thankful for. If you missed the meeting, go to our web site to see the program, especially the well produced video. I had tears in my eyes.

This month our new board for 2021-22 was elected. They are as follows: President: Lynda Huber-Marshall, Past-President: Lee Harker, First VP of Programs: Arlene Kraft, Jackie Murdoch, and Sandy Shaner, Decorations: Kathy Fuller and Darlene Crosby, Membership: Cathy Renken and Paula Johnson, Treasurer: Lindy Anderson, 2022-2023 Treasurer Pat Tewell, Publicity and Communications: Elaine Swyt

and Lindy Anderson, Secretary: Claudia DeVries, Sunshine and Wine: Laura Curran. We do hope we will be able to return to our luncheon format at the club house in September.

Although we are still not able to meet for our wonderful fashion show luncheon in May, we do hope you will enjoy our video produced fashion show with attire from the Lake Oswego, Chico's. For most of us, shopping has not been on our radar. We hope that this will inspire you to go find something fun! Please join Julie Reece of Chico's and our models on Monday May 10, 2021.

I remember my mother fondly for the strong woman she was, always giving everyone encouragement and the benefit of the doubt. She raised six of us basically by herself. As a nurse she cared for and nurtured many. For some of us our Mother's are with us only in memory. For those who still have yours, you are fortunate. Call or spend time with them as much as you can. You will never regret it.

We will close this month with a poem from an unknown author

Whene'er you find a happy home  
With smiling faces in it,  
Where loving hearts and busy hands  
Are speeding every minute;  
Where everyone is quite content  
With one thing or another,  
You'll know there lies within that home  
A wise and loving mother.

Happy Mother's Day!