



Prom season is approaching. It's one of the most exciting milestones in the life of an American high schooler. Most kids dream of Prom night for years, building it up into what becomes the fairy tale ending of an era – 12 years of schooling, experiences and growth – marking the transition into a new chapter of life. For many, however, the cost of Prom can make the experience unattainable. Financial constraints and other challenges can put a tremendous and unnecessary burden on students, alienating them from classmates and friends at a time when they most need community.

This is where philanthropist Maristela Rapo and her daughter, Alexis, step in with their amazing organization, Giving the Glam. The nonprofit organization works to ensure an incredible prom experience for many underserved urban and suburban high school seniors, covering the cost of all attire and accessories and making prom possible for students that couldn't otherwise attend. In addition, the organization works with young men and women from different backgrounds and situations to build their self-confidence and help guide and motivate them to find a path to overcome the challenges they may face by creating a viable plan for their future.

Maristela Rapo was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and grew up in a very impoverished community. As such, she faced many challenges. "There were many times when I couldn't participate in certain activities because my family couldn't afford them," she recalled. "It was tough to feel left out [while] many of my friends were lucky enough to be able to afford these privileges." At 18, Maristela left Brazil for Europe, where her "passion for fashion was officially born!"

Over the years she was the proprietor of two high-end boutiques, Wolford and Giuseppe Zanotti. Then, after many years in the fashion industry, she found a way to use her fashion expertise here in America to make a difference and to give back.

In 2014 Maristela's daughter, Alexis, connected her with the METCO coordinator from Dover-Sherborn High School. Alexis knew her mother could use her fashion expertise to help a student in need ... and Giving the Glam was born.

Today, Maristela and the GTG organization are located at the amazing Norwood Space Center, a multi-use commercial facility located in a historic renovated mill where arts intersects innovation. (www.norwoodspacecenter.com)

Alexis, currently a student at Boston University, dedicates much of her time alongside her mother helping the Foundation's mission. She enjoys helping the girls pick out gowns, making the final adjustments on fitting days, and even dancing with the participants on their prom day. Alexis loves helping make a difference in these kids' lives!

Giving the Glam is proud to support the students who, far too often are left out of so many important experiences due to circumstances that are no fault of their own. Creating an experience that they will never forget and watching them experience this inclusion is, they say, an amazing thing to witness.

The organization begins its work long before "Prom Season". Each Year, students are selected in coordination with Massachusetts Student Grant Programs including Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) and the Boston Police Department's District B Community Service Officers and the school's counselors. Then, early in January, the team helps each candidate choose his tuxedo or her dress and over the next few months arrange fittings. Final accessories are selected in March and April and the Giving the Glam team make sure that all candidates are prepped and dressed their very best.

When the big day finally arrives, the entire Giving the Glam team comes together for makeup, hair, manicure and to give the outfits the final touch.

"THE COOLEST PARTY OF THE YEAR!"

Giving the Glam hosts the most amazing fundraiser for this event. This year, the event will be on June 10th. Tickets are available for purchase. Learn more about this incredible organization, purchase event tickets or make donations by visiting their website at www.GIVINGTHEGLAM.org.



Giving the Glam

Please join us for an extraordinary evening

Fundraising Reception 2023

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023
6:00 - 11:00 PM | DOVER, MA**

Reception, Raffle, Fashion Show and Entertainment

Attire: Dress to Impress

TICKETS: \$150

All proceeds will help provide Giving The Glam high-school students a memorable prom day.