



BESSIE MORRIS

FOUNDATION

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Spring 2010

Dear Friend,

In these days of economic hardship, many people are asking, “How can I help make a difference in someone else’s life?”

There is no easy answer, but I can share with you how the **Bessie Morris Foundation Prom Dreams** program is helping young women overcome obstacles in life to become productive, contributing members of society. By assisting them in attending their senior prom, while emphasizing the importance of academic performance, self-esteem, and self-sufficiency, - lives have been changed.

The prom is traditionally the highlight of a girl’s senior year in high school. It is a day she will never get back. For the past five years, the Bessie Morris Foundation has awarded prom scholarships which provide financial assistance to low-income girls in attending their high school proms. This assistance is in the form of purchasing prom dresses, shoes, accessories, make-up, hairstyling, prom tickets, and pictures. Applicants must submit an application, essay, official transcripts, and school letters of recommendation to qualify.

We offer our THANKS to those individuals and organizations who have so generously given of their talents, time, and finances in the past to maintain the Prom Dreams program. Now, more than ever, YOUR HELP is needed. With increased costs for purchasing items for our scholarship recipients, the need for funding is enormous and urgent.

Please consider a generous gift this month to enable us to continue providing scholarships for these deserving young ladies. Your gifts are vital to this work, and are an active investment in someone else’s life. Because we are a Los Angeles County-based 501(c)(3) organization, your contributions are tax-deductable.

On the reverse side, you will find an essay written by one of this year’s recipients. The Bessie Morris Foundation continues to work through people like you to help people like this young lady - to change the world.

May you be blessed richly,

Ivory Freeman
Founder/CEO

A Special Dream Come True

Ever since my granddaddy passed away, life has been extremely difficult. After his death, my grandmother became ill. Both of her legs were amputated and now she requires around the clock care. Not only am I a full time high school student, active in many clubs, but once I get home my day doesn't end. I relieve my mom from her duties and become my grandmother's full time caregiver. We can't afford an in-home nurse to come and help us because my mom has been unemployed for several years. So, it is all on us. There's not a day that I don't break down into tears, because I wish that I could help my family more; but I can't, because I have school.

As a senior, I want to be able to participate in all my school activities; but it is financially impossible. I live in a single family household and all our income goes towards the bills, medicine, and doctor care. My prom is the main event that I've been waiting for since the 7th grade. I would always talk about how wonderful that day would be; but the future for my special night is becoming impossible. I don't want my financial situation to destroy my dream. I'm a hard working student. I focus on my studies and I am currently maintaining a 4.0 grade point average this semester. Struggling to make it to where I am today has been a blessing. So many times I have wanted to give up and walk away from my problems, instead of facing them. With the help of my grandmother and the push from my mom to stay ahead of the game, I've made it.

I would be honored if you choose me as one of your special ladies for Prom Night Dreams 2010. My mom and grandmother will be so relieved and grateful that a dream was fulfilled that they could not contribute to. Even though my granddaddy isn't here, I know that he's looking down on me. He would tell me to stay strong, fight the fight, finish the course, keep the faith, and let God bring a blessing to me. I believe that - and pray I am selected.

- Written by a 2010 Prom Dreams Applicant