



## Sarasota Classified Teachers Association

*"An Independent Labor Union Dedicated to the Professional Well-being of ALL Sarasota County Schools Employees"*

# Prom night for North Port students gets boost, courtesy of SCTA bus trip

*For the first time ever, the SCTA is sponsoring a bus today to transport an estimated 50 North Port High students to The Closet prom dress giveaway.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 1, 2015

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**SARASOTA COUNTY** – Dozens of North Port High School students who otherwise would miss the SCTA's annual prom dress giveaway will have their chance to participate today (April 1), courtesy of the Sarasota Classified/Teachers Association (SCTA).

An estimated 50 North Port students will board a bus funded by the SCTA at about 4 p.m. today, and will arrive at The Closet's Beneva Road location by 5 p.m. This is the first year the SCTA has funded buses from south Sarasota County for The Closet. The SCTA is in its fifth year of sponsoring the annual giveaway of prom dresses, shoes and accessories collected from generous community donors.

"It's always been difficult for girls from the North Port area to make it up here, so this is a great opportunity," said Pat Gardner, president of SCTA. "We want to help ALL of our girls have a prom experience they will remember forever."

The Closet received more than 1,500 donated dresses from the community, more than ever before, said organizer Chris Mayer, vice president of the SCTA. The Closet is also being held in a new location this year: Beneva Road between SCTI and Triad, in "Building 29."

Mayer, a teacher at Ashton Elementary School for 36 years, created The Closet five years ago when she noticed the nationwide recession was making it difficult for families to afford extras like prom dresses. The SCTA also provides equipment to coordinate The Closet.

For more information on The Closet, please see its Facebook page, "Free Prom Gowns in SRQ." Remaining dates for The Closet prom dress giveaway:

<b>April 1</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5 to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</b>

The SCTA works for high salaries and good working conditions for all of Sarasota County schools employees and provides ongoing professional support in the form of classes, workshops, coaching and training. Learn more at [www.sctaonline.org](http://www.sctaonline.org) or SCTA's Facebook page, titled "Sarasota Classified/Teachers Association."

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