

“Cinderella Project” turns sweet 16

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Today, nearly 300 volunteers turned a one of Vancouver’s hotel ballrooms in a fashion boutique with thousands of dresses, suits, shoes and accessories

Why? For the Cinderella project.

Its goal it is to outfit Vancouver’s most disadvantaged graduates so they can enjoy their graduation day as much as the next person. ‘boutique day’ is a day of recognition and self-esteem boosting.

The Cinderella Project is celebrating its sweet 16 this year as it helps a new group of 180 youth on the heels of their high school graduation.

It’s a project that encourages at-risk youth in a way that builds their trust in the community.

“So what we’re doing is really it’s a reward for their courage and perseverance. So it really is kind of the icing on the cake in addition to all of the other more substantial things that are going on in terms of working on self-esteem building and projecting towards a more optimal future.”

Heather Mackenzie, co-founder of the Cinderella Project, says this 100 percent volunteer-run program honours students who haven’t had life come easy.

It doesn’t just outfit them in a cute dress or handsome tux for graduation.

The project focuses on the future of these teens, providing them with opportunities for scholarship, mentorship, and resume-building when they need it most.