Prom with a Purpose to benefit teen program

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Dancers and diners at this year's Prom with a Purpose will be helping teenagers who may still have a high school prom ahead of them.

The annual fundraiser for Extended Grace's Momentum Center will benefit the organization's teen programs. Last year's prom, which netted $11,000 and saw 161 attendees, helped fund a bus for the program.
DJ On the Run will provide tunes for the evening, which is intended to bring people of all abilities together.

While Extended Grace helps serve adults with mental health issues, Executive Director Barbara Lee said many problems that adults deal with stem from an earlier time in their lives.

“We’re finding that issues around mental health and well-being start having an impact on people earlier and earlier,” she said.

The nonprofit is aiming to shift around the programming to serve pre-teens, Lee said. Older teens would be helping those in a program for younger teens.

“We get a lot of calls from parents who wonder about the teen program and what the ages are, and their kids are just a little too young,” Lee said. “We’re seeing that there’s a lot of need there. There’s just nothing for younger students.”

Sponsorships will help those who can’t afford a ticket attend the event, Lee said, and the dress code is anything from lavish to casual. About $15,000 has been raised through sponsorships this year.

“We never want the price to be a barrier to people spending time in community with each other,” Lee said.

High schoolers and adults are welcome. Hair and nails will also be provided on the day.

Extended Grace offers various services to help people with disabilities, mental illness and addiction. The Momentum Center is a Grand Haven-based nonprofit that promotes a stigma-free community.

To purchase Prom with a Purpose tickets, visit www.extendedgrace.org/prom-tickets.