

Sun-Sentinel Features It Suits U Service Project

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By Scott Fishman, October 4, 2013

Rachel Wallack is hoping to help fellow speech and debate students dress for success.

The senior at University School launched the It Suits U service project that collects dress clothes from classmates, teachers, parents and friends. The items are being stored on racks in her house, where they will be cataloged and inventoried. From there, her coach, Steve Schappaugh, will send out a list of garments with sizes to schools in the area.

"Lacking proper attire lowers self-confidence and portrays a sense of disinterest in the activity," Wallack said. "Through my combined experience of competing and judging novice tournaments, I, along with my mom ... noticed local students' lack of proper attire and wanted to help provide them with an opportunity to advance their speech and debate careers."

Schappaugh, director of forensics at the Davie school, is proud of her initiative.

"She sees a need, and it directly correlates to one of her passions," he said. "I am personally inspired by her generosity and spirit. I look forward to helping her implement her project, but more importantly, making sure it's an ongoing project that our school can be proud of for years."

Wallack hopes to eventually expand the initiative to other schools, reaching out to churches, synagogues and others in the community to help.

"Our dream would be for this to spread nationally, but we realize we first have to begin on a local basis," she said. "... Dressing for success is one of the most integral aspects of this activity. I feel that having the appropriate dress will elicit high self-esteem and therefore positively impact the students' performance."

They are currently looking for men's and women's suits, dress shirts, blouses, dresses with jackets, as well as belts and shoes. Gently used clothes that are washed and ready to wear are accepted. Those who have items to donate can email rlwallack@bellsouth.net, and they will arrange to pick up the clothing.



Rachel Wallack, University School Senior
Founder, It Suits U