

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank you for supporting the Grand Finale After Dark Committee for the past two years by placing ads to advertise our Fashion Show fundraiser and to help us notify the community of this opportunity to create a safe fun night on the night of prom for Groton Dunstable teens.

This effort has been driven by the following committee members who deserve a round of applause for standing up to support an event that we hope to some day see as a strong annual event in our town: Maureen Giattino and Cindy Smith (co-chairs), Laura McCadden, Sallie Romich, Nancy Perry, Norm and Debbie Wilkinson, Kathy Stratton, Diane D'Angelo, Lori Sullivan, Carole Carbutt, Ann Collentro, Ardie Henry, Astrid Jacob, Dawn Scharmer, Karen Scammell and Sue Watson.

Additionally, we would like to thank the companies who sponsored our efforts by placing ads in our Fashion Show program and who sent in donations. Our decision was made because the number of students who signed up in advance did not justify the cost of the event and the funds will be used toward a similar event next year providing volunteers step up to make it happen. Otherwise, those who made donations will have the opportunity to be refunded or to transfer it to another youth safety organization locally.

We would especially like to thank Groton Medical Associates for their generous monetary donation and the laser hair removal door prize as well as Patricia Axford photography for her gift of a senior portrait. Their generosity as well as those including floral donations from Lavender, Rose of Sharon, A-Executive limousine, Groton Hair, Che Bella, Filho's Cucina, Groton Market and many others have shown us how our local businesses care about the safety of our youth.

What will it take to get more parents involved in such an event and what will it take for our youth to "want" to go to an all night party that ensures safe celebrating? It takes a village. It takes parents showing their involvement in something we all come together for to show our kids we care about their safety on what can become a fatal night. It takes parents who are willing to stand up to their kids and say "You need to go and support this event. It is important for the kids of the future!" It needs parents to get involved by taking on one small task so there can be both a fundraising committee **and** an event planning committee, rather than the same 12 people running both.

We hope this is not the end for a safe all night event for our youth. We believe this community wants a sense of camaraderie rather than vulnerability. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know your child had the option to go off to prom on a bus that was cost effective and safe? Please go to our website to comment on what you think should be offered. Should an event such as this be mandated by the district? Should it be a graduation night event or a prom night event? Let us know, we want to hear from you. [www.gdafterdark.com](http://www.gdafterdark.com)

Dyan Sierra  
Co-chair, After Dark 2010

