

# Teenager uses fashion show as charity fundraiser

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GREENSBORO — A girl strutted across the stage, struck a pose and pouted her lip — in the name of charity.

Spotlights flashed behind her, and iPhones and iPads rose into the air Sunday night at The Blind Tiger as high school students took photos of their peers modeling clothing from Patina Prom and Bridal and Plato's Closet.

"This was a fun opportunity," said Raven Miller, 15, who wore a wedding dress. "I've never done anything like this before."

Miller was modeling in a charity fashion show created by Jesse Herndon, a 16-year-old junior at Weaver Academy.

Last December, Herndon decided she wanted to do something special.

"I haven't done anything really extraordinary with my life yet," Herndon said. "So last December I decided to do something."

Creating a fashion show was always in Herndon's plans.

For Sunday's event, she decided to partner with Backpack Beginnings, a Greensboro organization that provides food and clothing to less fortunate children.

"I feel like Backpack Beginnings, who gives clothing and food to kids, are really supporting (equal opportunities for students) and making the world a better place," Herndon said.

Kellie Gallerani, chairwoman of Backpack Beginnings' clothing pantry, said she is encouraged to see young people like Herndon helping other children.

"I remember what my kids' junior years were like and how crazy busy they were, and to know that there are (young) people out here ... who are willing to give up so much of their time and put in so much effort for someone else ...," she said.

Tickets to the fashion show, a silent auction and a raffle raised \$300 for Backpack Beginnings.

