

Letter: Schools need your Dutch costumes

Recommend 

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Holland, Mich.

Holland Area Newcomers would like to thank the generous Hollanders who graciously donated costumes and wooden shoes to the schools of Holland. We all experience a joy and pride in seeing thousands of local children march through the streets during the Tulip Time parades.

What many citizens may not know is that the children must wear a Dutch costume in order to march in those parades. Dutch costumes can be difficult to find, are even harder to sew, and may be quite expensive. For over 60 years, Holland Area Newcomers has been hosting the Dutch costume resale event to offer one place where parents and teachers can come shop for new and gently used costumes.

This year, while discussing the sale on the local radio, I asked the citizens of our city to look through their closets and basements for Dutch costumes that their families were no longer wearing. I not only encouraged people to sell those costumes on consignment during our community service event, but for people to consider donating them to a local school. I offered that if they brought the costumes down to the Civic Center during our event, we would take them to a local school for a less fortunate child to borrow during Tulip Time. We were so thrilled by how many people walked into the Civic Center with costumes and shoes in hand, ready to give them to someone who would need and appreciate them. We acquired some beautiful costumes in many sizes for boys and girls. This year, the costumes will be donated to Holland Public Schools and Cherry Lane Preschool. Students who would not normally be able to afford a costume can borrow one for the week in order to celebrate their city's heritage with their school.

I'm hoping that if you're reading this letter, you may also be compelled to donate your used Dutch costumes. You can call any of the local school administration buildings and ask where to take them. If you are not in a position to donate, please consider reselling them at next year's Dutch costume resale so more citizens will be able to find a much-needed Dutch costume, helping carry on the tradition of Tulip Time.

Elizabeth Morales

Holland Area Newcomers