



Beatrice's HOPE

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Wear your imagination – girls' clothing vision comes to life

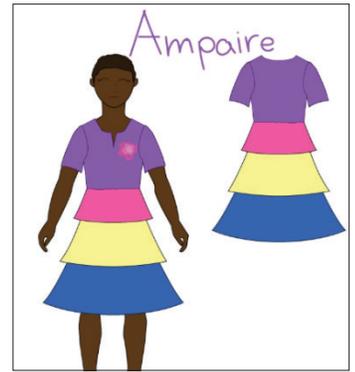
The University of Minnesota students have been designing and sewing dresses for girls at Blue House. What started as a one day service-learning project at the University of Minnesota (UMN) under the directorship of Prof. Lucy Dunne in 2012 has grown into a beautiful partnership between the students of the Apparel Design Program in MN and the Blue House girls.

This past year, the Blue House girls sketched dresses they envisioned themselves wearing. The sketches were translated to technical drawings and garment patterns by the UMN students. Some of the dresses were actually tailored by the UMN students. One of many Blue House girls who participated in this program is Ampaire, a third grader, who is shown proudly wearing the dress she designed.

Lucy Dunne wrote a letter to the Blue House girls explaining the dress making process and describing each step the UMN students took to create the dresses. Her letter included sketches made by the Blue House girls and the UMN student's technical interpretation of those sketches. She explained that it was a learning experience for her students and mentioned some of the challenges her students faced. She suggested to try this kind of project again so the Blue House girls will have another opportunity to put their design skills into action.



The inspiration, the art, the creativity. Creating her own fashion: An initial sketch by Ampaire



Turning Ampaire's vision into reality. The first sketch is now coming to "life"



UMN students creating the pattern and a prototype;



A very happy Ampaire models her beautiful final product.



Girls feeling styled up in fancy dress pants suits. The original sketch was created by Blue House student Olivia.

What a great opportunity for the Blue House girls to learn and be involved in the design of their dresses right from the start.

Other Highlights to Celebrate

- Installed lightening protection system on Blue House main building
- Completed renovations to Blue House
- Connected Blue House to water mainline
- Purchased the very first television for the girls