

Johnson County Sun – May 12, 2010

Re-Work It: Fashion show challenges designers, raises funds for developmental supports

Community

WRITTEN BY JESSICA MARSHALL

WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY 2010 00:00



EDMEE RODRIGUEZ/SUN PHOTOS Whitney Wilson, left, and Johnson County Developmental Supports client Lurina Nixon model outfits by aspiring designer Laurie Wilson, who won the Restyle Runway competition, which benefits Friends of Johnson County Developmental Supports. The event took place May 7 at the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel.

The second annual Restyle Runway brought out a crowd of almost 400 people to the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel on May 7.

The event, which benefits Friends of Johnson County Developmental Supports, included a fashion show featuring the work of design students and aspiring local designers, as well as a cocktail party, and appetizer and dessert buffet.

The competition, with the theme “Reduce, Reuse and Restyle,” showcases collections made from clothing from area Goodwill Industry stores, intended to show the audience how re-using and restyling clothes can be fashionable and economical.

Each collection had to include clothing embellished with buttons, trims or fabric supplied by the designer, and outfits reworked, resewn and/or combined with other garments from Goodwill.



Hannah Gasaway models an ensemble from design student Colin Coit's collection at Restyle Runway. The fashion competition, with the theme 'Reduce, Reuse and Restyle,' featured outfits made from clothing from area Goodwill Industry stores.

This year's participating designers were: **Brittany Barrett, Colin Coit, Sophia Cox, Michele Crow, Lisa Demaree, Shivani Desai, Abby Edsall, Chelci Gearhiser, Heavenlea Glavin, Chanel Hawkins, Amanda Her, Stephanie Holt, Jihaeng Lee, Jin Xin Li, Elise O'Connor, Ana Pinon, Sarah Ross, Schemia Samuels, Miquela Smith** and **Laurie Wilson**.

Wilson's collection "Cool Season Blossoms" won the \$1,000 first-place prize. Lee, a Johnson County Community College student, won the \$750 second-place prize for her "Delight in Love" collection. Crow, a Johnson County Community College student, won the \$500 third-place prize for her "Fall Forward" collection.

The designers' collections were modeled by professional and volunteer models, some with developmental disabilities. Celebrity models included **Mike Boehm**, Lenexa mayor; **Danielle Bounds**, 2010 Miss United States Air; State Sen. **Julia Lynn**, 9th District; **Laura McConwell**, Mission mayor; and **Holly Starr**, 38 The Spot host.

Fox 4 news anchor **John Holt** and Mix 93.3 DJ **Jenny Matthews** emceed the event.

Judges were **Ann Brownfield**, founder and curator of the Historic Garment District Museum in Kansas City; **Tom Dooley**, Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries, Eastern Kansas/Western Missouri region, retail operations vice president; and **Heather Krafft**, freelance fashion stylist, personal shopper and writer.

The public can bid on their favorite ensembles on Goodwill's online auction site, www.shopgoodwill.com. Click on the

search button and select "MO-Kansas City" for the seller category.

Friends of JCDS Executive Director **Janet Hoffman** said the ensembles in this year's show were "out of this world." Some of the JCDS clients who modeled last year were eager to participate again, Hoffman said.

In 2009, Restyle Runway raised \$10,000. This year's total was not available before The Sun's press date, but Hoffman said she anticipated raising even more money.

Proceeds benefit Friends of JCDS, a nonprofit organization that started in 1990 to promote charitable giving to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities who live in Johnson County. JCDS provides emergency assistance funding, social and recreational activities, assistive technology, and accessible housing.

For information, visit www.friendsofjcds.com.