

Martin County - St. Lucie County



Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday - Dec. 9, 2013

Luminaries



Fashion Show benefits mission of Mary's Shelter



Amy Rainis and Nancy Sbordone

Photos by Bob Dobens Photography: John Glynn, Jane Benson of Evelyn & Arthur, Nick Grubbs, Kara Workman with daughter Jaci Polzin and Amy Rainis will bring the Mary's Shelter Fashion Show to life on Jan. 21.

Cover Story

Three Events Support Mary's House

This year alone, more than 24 women in our community found themselves in the unfortunate situation of being pregnant and homeless, without support from family and friends and nowhere to turn.

Fortunately, their lives - and the lives of their unborn children - took a more positive turn thanks to Mary's Shelter of the Treasure Coast.

Mary's Shelter is a transitional home that provides residential and non-residential services for pregnant women and women with newborns.

Those who seek assistance from the local nonprofit organization are often in need of a supportive environment because they lack suitable housing or favorable family relationships.

Since opening in 2010, Mary's Shelter has assisted nearly 80 women in improving their lives.

Residents have worked hard to receive their GEDs and certifications in a variety of programs including Certified Nursing Assistant and Child Development Assistant.

Others have chosen to pursue internships, study for programs through Indian River State College and gain skills to become employed through training provided by Workforce Solutions.

To provide and expand its programs and reach more mothers in need, Mary's Shelter hosts three annual fundraising events - a golf tournament, a fashion show and a banquet.

On Dec. 13, Mary's Shelter's 4th Annual Golf Tournament will take place at Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart. For \$150 per golfer, the tournament includes lunch, a full round of golf, a cocktail reception, a silent auction and hole-in-one prizes.

Event participants also have an opportunity to take their shot at driving away in a brand new Audi or Infiniti.

Mary's Shelter's Fashion Show takes place from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Jan. 21, also at Willoughby Golf Club.

Kelley Dunn of WPTV NewsChannel 5 will serve as event emcee.

Annually, the Fashion Show proves to be a huge hit with attendees and the community. Models strut down the catwalk showcasing fashions from shops in Sewall's Point Harbour Bay Plaza and from boutiques in downtown Stuart.

For \$75 per person, guests will enjoy the fashion show, lunch, a silent auction and the opportunity to visit and shop with vendors who will be selling fashion accessories. The

event is spearheaded by a large committee, including Kimberly Blazie, Camille Bowers, Katharin Brink, Pam Catalufumo, Sally Deuchler, Luanne Dunne, Stephanie Eidemueller, Debbie Hornbeck, Cheryl Lott, Denise McKenzie, Kathy O'Neil, Amy Rainis, Lil Richardson, Nancy Sbordone, Barbara Schroeder, Angela Trybul and Lynda Hartley Urban, under the direction of Joan Miaritis.

Last year the sellout fashion show raised more than \$20,000 and the committee is striving to surpass that amount.

The 2014 Banquet will take from 5-9 p.m. on March 2 at Sailfish Point Country Club and will include an open bar, dinner, live auction and entertainment by the Atlantic City Boys.

To donate, sponsor, or participate in any of these Mary's Shelter events, visit www.maryssheltertc.org, call (772) 223-5000 or go to www.facebook.com/maryssheltertc.

Submitted by Evelyn Lespinasse of The Firefly Group on behalf of Mary's Shelter



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