



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Annual Runway Show Spotlights Models from the Jewish Association for Community Living (JCL)

Sixteen Adults Served by the JCL will take to the runway at "An Evening of Friends, Fun & Fashion" Benefit for the Mandell JCC Adult Special Needs program.

WEST HARTFORD, 335 Bloomfield Ave, Wednesday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

Many of the 16 models participating this year are experienced taking to the runway – David Schuster, Melissa Belcher, Jaime Morris, Marianne Burkey, and Jonathon Nichols. The show has become an annual event for these models.

This year more of their friends will be joining them – Beena Schectman, Mira Rauch, Arsenia Levie and many more. The highlight of the evening is watching the models that will include JCL staffers and a JCC board member wearing fashions from BK & Co. and J.T. Ghamo Tuxedos on the red carpet.

"The models truly enjoy this experience," Denis Geary, JCL Executive Director says. "They are the center of attention and receive lots of applause. They truly enjoy giving back to the special needs program at the Mandell JCC since they are participants of the program."

This year's fashion show will be held in memory of Illene Schloss, who died last August after a brief illness. Schloss, who worked in member services at the JCC founded the show and coordinated the adult special needs programming. The money raised helps to provide social and recreational programming for adults with special needs and intellectual disabilities.



Brian Phelps, Jaime Morris, Scott Stonecipher, Marianne Burkey, Denis Geary,
and Melissa Belcher wait their turn on the runway last year.

About JCL

The Jewish Association for Community Living exists for one reason only — to help adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities participate in community life as independently and safely as possible. Many of the JCL residents grew up in the West Hartford area. With the support of JCL, they have been able to remain in the area with continued ties to family and friends.

Our programs and services are open to all faiths and backgrounds. However, JCL is one of the few organizations in the area that help adults with special needs practice and reinforces their Jewish heritage. JCL manages group homes, supported living homes, and day programs in West Hartford. www.jcl-ct.org.

Contact

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