

New Horizons commemorates major milestones

LISA RYMER

YOURNEWS CONTRIBUTOR

FORT PIERCE — New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee has much to celebrate these days!

For starters, the nonprofit mental health, primary care and substance abuse agency is marking its 59th anniversary of service to the community with a new event called “An Evening in 3-D: Dine, Design and Diamonds.”

The Wednesday evening soiree is April 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Heathcote Botanical Gardens, and features local fashion designers and models, food stations, a Champagne reception, and gems galore. Tickets are \$50 and are available at www.nhtcinc.org.

Next, New Horizons is partnering with Indian River State College and the McCabe Foundation to offer a free training session during Mental Health Awareness Month to raise awareness about suicide prevention.

The QPR (question, persuade, refer) training is scheduled for May 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the college's Kight Center for Emerging Technologies. It is open to the public; 3 continuing education units are available at no cost to licensed professionals. Registration is required at www.nhtcinc.org.

And recently, New Horizons received re-certification by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), an international, independent accreditor of health and human services.

Certification by CARF recognizes that the provider's business and service practices meet international standards of quality.

“This achievement is an indication of your organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the person's served,” wrote a representative of CARF.

Among the services provided by New Horizons that were surveyed:

- » Children's crisis intervention: mental health/alcohol/drugs
- » Adult crisis intervention: mental health/alcohol/drugs
- » Adult detoxification support: alcohol/drugs
- » Children's outpatient treatment: al-



Women of distinction from across the Treasure Coast model the fashions of five local designers for New Horizons' 59th anniversary celebration on April 12. Pictured are Tammy Raits (from left), Nithchel Joyce, Jennifer Strawn (sponsor), Beverley Beauchamp (designer), Raquel Tilton, and Mary Baysinger; (right) Diamond Litty, Sabre Mochachino (designer), Stacie Cantaline, Laura Guttridge, Dr. Lisa Grassam, Kristin Meek (designer), and Mary Thornton (designer).

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cohol/drugs/mental health

- » Adult outpatient treatment: alcohol/drugs/mental health
- » Student alcohol/drug/violence prevention
- » Adult residential treatment: alcohol/drugs/mental health
- » Jail inmate programs: alcohol/drugs/mental health
- » Mental Health Court
- » Mobile Crisis Unit: alcohol/drugs/mental health
- » Primary Care Clinic

The certification is good for three years. Re-certification on a regular basis ensures best practices are adhered to over time and new developments in

the industry are incorporated into the standard policies of an organization.

For instance, mental health care was formerly more authoritative, with treatment plans “prescribed” by the physician or medical professional without consulting with the patient about the feasibility of such a plan.

Now, person-centered care is the desired standard for health and human services. At New Horizons, that involves doctors and other medical professionals collaborating with the client in tailoring a treatment plan to fit his or her individual needs, preferences and expectations.

“Person-centered care is at the heart

of what New Horizons does,” said the agency's president and CEO, John B. Romano. “At New Horizons, the client always comes first and is treated like a first-class citizen.”

Established in 1958, New Horizons is the largest mental health provider in the region, with eight facilities compassionately serving 13,000 children and adults annually, regardless of their ability to pay.

To learn more about New Horizons, purchase tickets to “An Evening in 3-D: Dine, Design and Diamonds,” or to register for the QPR training, please visit www.nhtcinc.org or call 772-696-2729.