

Cover Story

Treasure Coast

New Horizons

59 years of mental health service to the community

By Lisa Rymer

Before New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee was established in 1958, there were few options for area residents dealing with mental illness and substance abuse.

“You either went to the state hospital, went to jail or just went untreated,” said Jim Wakefield, a social worker at New Horizons from 1974 until 2005.

Fortunately for the growing population, a group of concerned citizens recognized the need and opened the Indian River Community Mental Health Clinic.

Now 59 years later, New Horizons, a 501c3 nonprofit, has eight facilities in four counties serving 13,000 children and adults annually, regardless of their ability to pay.

In fact, more than half of New Horizons clients have no source of income or insurance. Case managers help connect them to resources and guide them along the road to recovery -- giving them hope, dignity and a new lease on life.

“We are passionate about the care we provide to people in need,” said President/CEO John B. Romano.

Among the inpatient and outpatient services at New Horizons:

- Children’s crisis stabilization
- Adult crisis stabilization
- Mobile Crisis Response Team
- Short and long term group homes
- Substance abuse detox
- 28-Day substance abuse treatment

**New Horizons
‘An Evening in 3-D:
Dine, Design & Diamonds’
April 12, 6-9 p.m.
Heathcote Botanical Gardens
Tickets: \$50 per person
Available at G. Alan’s Fine
Jewelry, www.nhtcinc.org, or
(772)696-2729**

- Outpatient therapy
- Primary Care Clinic
- Life skills and job readiness classes
- School drug prevention and anti-violence education
- Jail substance abuse and mental health programs
- Mental Health Court

To commemorate almost six decades of service to the community, New Horizons is hosting “An Evening in 3-D: Dine, Design and Diamonds,” presented by G. Alan’s Fine Jewelry and Midway Dental Center (see pages 26 and 27). The event will feature five local fashion designers, a dozen women of distinction from across the Treasure Coast as models, food stations from area restaurants, and gems galore.

“This event is a celebration of our differences and the many unique facets that make us who we are,” said Pat Austin, Vice Chair of the New Horizons Board of Directors. “But it also celebrates our unity of vision--- a community in which everyone has the opportunity for quality of life.”

The festivities begin with a champagne



Presenting Sponsors Greg Childress of G. Alan’s Fine Jewelry and Dr. Jim Strawn of Midway Dental Center

reception in the Bonsai Garden, boasting the largest collection of tropical bonsai in the country, followed by a stunning array of fashion, music and dance.

Additional sponsors: David L. Smythe, Treasure Coast Newspapers/TCPalm, Baci Trattoria, Baysinger Search, TC Photography Center, Giordano’s Floral Creations, Moonswiners Bar-B-Q, Aramark, Carmine & Lucia’s, The Parisian Hostess, The Amber Ribbon Collection, Liquor World, Exchange Club of Indian River, St. James Social Club, VeroBeach.com, Hair Design by Julienne, Planet Vero Radio, Personal Independence Network, First Florida Insurance Brokers (FFIB), Deck Restaurant, AllThingsTreasureCoast.com, and Rosato Plastic Surgery Center.

Cover photo: Event models and designers: Nithchel Joyce, Beverley Beauchamp, Raquel Tilton, Tammy Raitis, Mary Baysinger, Jennifer Strawn, Diamond Litty, Sabre Mochachino, Stacie Cantaline, Laura Guttridge, Dr. Lisa Grassam, Kristin Meek, and Mary Thornton.

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