



## 2nd Annual Designer's Challenge & Top Model

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Friends of Advantage Designer's Challenge & Top Model Event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 7:00 pm at Hotel Indigo Rialto Room.

Tickets are \$20. Get your tickets early as seating is limited to 150. The 2013 Designer's Challenge Teams are as follows:

Christine Butler-Designer & Tracey Daniels-Model; Barbara Cates-Designer & Samantha Cates-Model; KaDee Holt-Designer & Tammy Gilland-Model; Sarah Hill –Both Designer & Model; Faye Kardos-Designer & Beth Van Winkle-Model; Tenise Mosely-Designer & Cierra Hayes-Model; Vicki Rodrigues – Designer & Gretchen Frye-Model; Terri Sheridan-Designer & Kari Sheridan-Model. The models who will present the Parade of Dresses, a

sneak preview of the dresses that will be available for the address a



Need SALE are:

Hannah Merchant of Athens Family Dental; Jaiden Taunton of Clarke County; Hannah Baird, Beth Coker, Isabel Edwards, and Stephanie Savage of Madison County; Anna Nixon and Sherrie Maxwell of Jackson County; Alana Munday

and Kaela Wagler of Barrow County; Courtney Hall of Greene County; Mackenzie Creech and Madison Hargrove of Oconee County; Delaney Jindra, Arleshea Candrea Wright, and Collette Toney of UGA.

Friends of Advantage would like to welcome John E. Kardos, Attorney at Law, as a new sponsor for the Friends of Advantage Designer's Challenge. We thank you for your assistance in bridging gaps in funding for meeting needs within Advantage Behavioral Health Systems.

For more information on the event, designers, and to vote for the model of your choice, go to:

[www.friendsofadvantage.org](http://www.friendsofadvantage.org)

*All the proceeds from address a Need projects 2013 is earmarked for Vantage Point Crisis Stabilization Unit.*

### Thank You!

Friends of Advantage would like to thank all our sponsors and volunteers that joined us for our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting combined with Advantage Behavioral Health Systems. It was a pleasure to honor each of you for your support to FOA! We look forward to enhancing our relationships and partnering with you again in 2013!

#### Inside this issue:

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2nd Annual Designer's Challenge     | 1 |
| Our CEO In the Know                 | 2 |
| How to become a Friend of Advantage | 2 |
| Address a Need 2013                 | 3 |
| Ongoing Needs at Advantage          | 4 |
|                                     |   |



## Our CEO In the Know

Greetings! Our largest fund-raising event of the year is underway, the adDRESS-a-Need sale and the Designers' Challenge. This year the funds will support Advantage Behavioral Health Systems' Crisis Stabilization Unit, Vantage Point. A CSU provides a short-term residential alternative to psychiatric hospitalization for those who typically would be hospitalized either because of active mental illness or for substance detoxification. Vantage Point has 14 beds, and, can provide such services for adults.

Typically an individual who is admitted will remain for 5 to 10 days, as their condition is stabilized and services within the community are arranged. Many clients are at risk for suicide at the time of their admission. Others are in great physical pain due to their attempt to stop abusing drugs or alcohol. The unit is primarily manned by nurses, with psychiatric supervision by our Medical Director, Dr. Hashmi. Brief counseling is offered by a mental health clinician.

You may not know that in the 10 county area that is served by Advantage and, thus, Vantage Point, no hospital has a psychiatric ward! The nearest private hospitals are in Gainesville or Snellville, and, the nearest state operated psychiatric hospital is



in Augusta, Georgia. So, you would be guessing correctly if you guessed that Vantage Point usually operates at capacity! Although the majority of its clients come from the Advantage catchment area, they do at times receive clients from throughout Georgia.

Last year, ABHS served over 700 individuals at Vantage Point.

The care offered is exceptional. Unfortunately, the facility is not. Clients must share rooms with one to three other individuals. The dining space is cramped. With a larger facility, Vantage Point could increase its capacity to 16 beds, as well as provide a more therapeutic environment. Thus Friends of Advantage is beginning a campaign to raise funds for a new facility. This will be a multi-year project, but, the funds from this year's fund raiser will be an excellent start!

We hope you can come to our events to support Vantage Point. If you cannot, but, would like to designate a donation to Friends for this project, simply mark it on your check! Advantage's leadership, staff and clients are truly appreciative of the support that Friends provide. Thank you!

*Dr. Cindy Darden*

## Becoming a "Friend" of Advantage

**Make checks payable to:**

Friends of

*Advantage*

250 North Avenue, Athens GA 30601

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend (\$25 & up) Copper (\$100 & up) Bronze (\$250 & up) Silver (\$500 & up) Gold(\$1000 & up) Platinum (\$2000 & up) Diamond (\$5000 & up)

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# AdDRESS a Need 2013

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The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual adDRESS a Need SALE will be held at The Classic Center on March 1-2, 2013. Formal and semi-formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, and handbags for prom, wedding, mother of the bride, Easter, a night on the town, vintage pieces, etc. will be available. This sale is open to the public, just in time for prom and wedding season. Please share this information with your friends and family, as dress prices start at \$20 and nothing is priced over \$150. Dress and accessory donations will be accepted through February 22<sup>nd</sup> for the sale. If you have a dress hanging in your closet, collecting dust, please consider donating it to Friends of Advantage and you can receive a tax deduction for your donation.

FOA offers Prom Scholarship opportunities, providing Cinderella Makeovers to young ladies who are unable to attend prom due to financial situations. We set aside at least one scholarship for each of the ten counties we serve. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please share the information and request an FOA Prom Scholarship Form for them to complete. We are still in need of sponsors for our adDRESS a Need projects. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Tammy Dalton by email at [tdalton@advantagebhs.org](mailto:tdalton@advantagebhs.org), or by phone at 706-296-8086.



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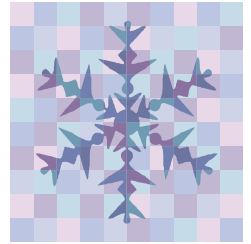
Sheila Carson Drake

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Jenny Richardson

Vicki Rodrigues

Melanie Villalta (Honorary)



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**Ongoing Needs at Advantage**

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We have an ongoing need for donations of toiletries that includes shampoos, conditioners, soaps, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as coats, jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, towels, blankets, tents and sleeping bags for our Homeless Day Service Center.

There is also an ongoing need for twin sized sheets, towels, bath rugs, mattress covers, pots & pans, appliances, and furniture for our residential housing units and Women's Services Recovery residences. Peer Supports and Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) can always use craft items.

