

NEWS RELEASE

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Richland Newhope Industries hosts annual fashion show

(Mansfield, OH) – Seventeen models posed for cameras and strutted down the runway Friday during the 6th Annual Dress for Achievement Fashion Show at Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. (RNI) in Mansfield.

The event, held at RNI's 4th Street location, featured job appropriate outfits that individuals served by Richland Newhope could wear in preparation for community employment. All of the clothing was donated by Newhope staff and family members or friends of employees.

"It was fun," said Colin McLaughlin of Greenwich. "I liked that my mom ended up coming."

Model Jeff Pfeiderer of Mansfield said the best part about the fashion show was walking down the runway. "I was happy," Pfeiderer added.

Other models were Yvonne Anderson of Mansfield, Deb Arehart of Mansfield, Joyce Bowman of Mansfield, Katie Cline of Mansfield, Vicky Davis of Mansfield, Aaron Gasparac of Shiloh, Dean Green of Ontario, Danielle Griffiths of Mansfield, Gina Hoover of Mansfield, Leon Iddings of Mansfield, Dirk Kinney of Mansfield, Mark Kollar of Mansfield, David Meadows of Mansfield, Christine Orr of Mansfield, and Wayne Stevens of Mansfield.

Billy McGaw served as co-emcee along with Newhope Support Specialist Aurelio Diaz.

"You get to praise them up a little bit," said McGaw. "They don't get very much praise."

The Dress for Achievement Committee began preparing for the event several months ago. Each individual will get to keep the clothing he or she modeled. Additional clothing that was donated will be given to low-income individuals at the workshop or in group homes who need clothes but aren't necessarily looking for a community job. Some may also be placed in a clothes closet to be maintained at RNI to assist individuals year-round.

In addition, the Dress for Achievement Committee received a \$1,000 Innovation in Integrations grant, which is being used to purchase grooming items and undergarments for those individuals participating in the show. The grant money is from a fund established by RNI at the Richland County Foundation.

It is the mission of Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. to help individuals with developmental disabilities integrate into the community by offering employment opportunities, daily living skills, recreation, and many other activities and supports.

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