

## IN FOCUS

## Boutique and trunk show benefit women's treatment center

Fundraiser targets addiction services for disadvantaged.

By Faran Fagen  
Special to The Palm Beach Post

The annual Wayside House's Spring Boutique & Trunk Show is crucial to help support women who cannot afford treatment for addiction.

For more than two decades, the event has been the premier fundraising event, and every year it has become more popular.

"This event helps educate the public about addiction, especially for women and children, and raises additional funds needed to keep our most vulnerable women in treatment," said Lisa McWhorter, Wayside House's CEO.

The boutique and trunk show, scheduled for Feb. 20-22 at the Delray Center for the Arts at Old School Square, is expected to be the largest ever for the 44-year-old women's addiction treatment center. The four-day event begins with a preview party on the eve of the three-day show – from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 19, at the same location.

Wayside House in Delray Beach has served women with substance abuse disorders since 1974. Its mission is to be a healing environment that helps women substance use disorders by providing them with tools to rebuild their lives, reconnect with loved ones and recover from active addiction.

The program helps women obtain the tools needed to stay clean, an opportunity to gain employment through its Posner Career Center and obtain housing in a recovery residence. If they choose, women can continue in services for over a year.



More than 2,000 people from throughout the county annually attend the Wayside House Spring Boutique & Trunk Show, which has been the center's signature fundraiser for more than two decades. It moved to Old School Square three years ago.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**IF YOU GO**  
2018 Spring Boutique & Trunk Show  
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 20-22; preview party is 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 19  
Where: Delray Center for the Arts, Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach  
Cost: \$5 at the door  
For Information: Call 561-666-9155 or visit [waysidehouse.net](http://waysidehouse.net)

work at Wayside House. I couldn't ask for more than that."

Wayside House was established in 1974 by Dr. Susan B. Anthony, great niece and namesake of the women's rights activist, and by Phyllis Michelfelder, to provide alcoholism services to women.

The center now serves women ages 18 and older suffering from drug and alcohol issues and accompanying disorders. The traditional and innovative therapies are now supplemented with equine, art and horticulture therapies, as well as yoga, parenting and job-skills training.

According to the organization's website, currently, women are the fastest-growing population of substance abusers in the U.S. While this is an alarming statistic, what is even more alarming is that women are less likely than men to receive drug and alcohol treatment. A variety of reasons contribute to this, including barriers to treatment such as cost, lack of education about treatment options, lack of support from family, fear and stigma.

For more information or to register for the preview party, call 561-666-9155. Read more about the event and organization at [waysidehouse.net](http://waysidehouse.net).

Every Tuesday at 9:45 p.m., they provide free assessments to women with substance use disorders.

"I'm honored to be a part of a team of people who truly care and are passionate about serving women and children," McWhorter said. "I have a great compassionate staff who is supported by a great board of directors who believe in us."

Led by event chairs Martha Grimm, Lisa Hayes Jankowski and Darcy Weber, the boutique and trunk show includes 40 vendors from throughout the U.S., offering items ranging from jewelry and fashion accessories to high-end clothing and eclectic home décor.

It also includes a Trifles and Treasures area of gently used items, which has become one of the most popular offerings of the annual event that draws crowds from throughout Palm Beach County and surrounding coastal communities.



Elizabeth Morgan (from left), Joan Burns, Doll Rodriguez, Sue Ambrecht, Lisa Hayes-Jankowski, Debbie Ritter, Martha Grimm, Ellen Rubel, Darcy Weber, Barbara Whittaker and Lalla Young are members of the Wayside House's Spring Boutique & Trunk Show committee, which makes the event possible each year.

Since Wayside House Inc. receives federal funds to serve its women, the event is crucial to help support those who cannot afford treatment. The amount received doesn't cover the full cost of treat-

ment. Therefore, the organization must raise an additional \$100 per day, per bed.

The Spring Boutique & Trunk Show is planned and executed by volunteers. The boutique has expanded over

the years in the number of vendors and funds raised, and McWhorter said the event would not be possible without its dedicated volunteers.

"For me, the highlight of the event is seeing the volunteers in action, selling tickets, working in Trifles and Treasures and talking about Wayside House," McWhorter said. "Another highlight of the event is seeing so many people come together to raise awareness and raise money to keep our most vulnerable population in treatment."

McWhorter's goals for the event: To continue to raise awareness about addiction and how it affects everyone; to raise about \$180,000; attract more people to the event and gain more volunteers.

Events like these certainly increase awareness for this noble cause.

"Anywhere I go, people know of Wayside House," McWhorter said. "I am blessed to have the opportunity to