

For Immediate Release:

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The first annual Community Link Fashion Show sponsored by Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. was held at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in East McKeesport on Saturday, April 9, 2005. There were 23 models from the agency's day and residential programs, who walked the runway dressed in clothing from Marshall's Department Store at the Waterfront. Each also received the professional assistance from Donna, a hairstylist from Turtle Creek.

The event started at noon with a lunch prepared by Community Link staff. Members of the St. Robert Bellarmine's youth group served the meal to 130 attendees. Mrs. Emily Belchick coordinated the efforts of the wait staff whose help in setting up for the event and serving was outstanding and greatly appreciated.

The audience included Father John Oesterle and parishioners of St. Robert Bellermine, as well as the models' family members and friends. The largest group in attendance was from Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh, who were there cheering on two of the models.

The fashion show was emceed by Tina Wimbs, Site Supervisor of the TCV MH/MR, Inc's New Beginnings Adult Training Facility. The models were truly the highlight of the afternoon. Each added their own special flair to the outfit they presented. They received a well deserved standing ovation for an excellent presentation. Also, special recognition was given to an individual who worked tirelessly making centerpieces and favors.

Susan Anastas, mother of one of the models, coordinated with Marshall's in outfitting the models. She volunteered much time and effort as a member of the Fashion Show Committee. She created twenty decorative hats that adorned the tables and became door prizes.

During the event there was a Chinese Auction which was made possible by donations from 29 local businesses and individuals. The donations were combined to create 17 beautiful baskets! Arts and crafts made by participants of the Community Link Program were also available for purchase by guests.

Many people contributed positively to the event, which provided the models with a wonderful feeling of accomplishment, success and satisfaction. They truly enjoyed their roles as Super Models!

