



NEWS LOCAL

Raising money and hope on the runway

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Runway for Hope is set for July 27 at the NAC. Proceeds will go to the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa for work with youth mental health services.

Amy Yee, Summer student

Beauty, style and fashion. Concepts that are known to society as being glitzy and brazen.

Nonetheless, Fashion 613 is distinctive as it focuses on building a fashion company that is based on the principles of honesty and sincerity.

Since its establishment in 2006, Fashion 613 has hosted a charity fashion show where funds raised have gone to help those in Sudan.

Fashion 613's next charity show will be Runway for Hope where proceeds will go towards the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa and its work with youth mental health.

Set for July 27 at the National Arts Centre, the YSB is the focus of the fundraiser for a reason near and dear to the heart of coordinator Andres Rodrigues. His friend Samantha Richards, a big fashion supporter in the city, committed suicide.

"It was a big shock, she was a person who was always happy and always helped people in need," said Rodrigues. "Everybody liked her, for many people it took at least a week to digest the fact that she was gone."

Because of this, Rodrigues believes that it is important to promote the awareness of mental health services to young people. His goal is to raise \$1,000 for YSB.

Statistics show that 75% of mental health issues are rooted in early teenage years. This is why YSB strives to create mental health services that are accessible and youth friendly.

"We are not here to judge, we are here to listen and help," said Eva Schacherl, director of communications at YSB.

YSB offers a wide range of mental health services for those between the ages of 12-20 including a walk-in clinic, a 24/7 crisis line and youth and family counselling services. Last year, YSB's mental health services served 2,672 clients, a 28% increase from the previous year.

The show will be held July 27 at the NAC beginning at 7 p.m. For tickets and information, visit www.fashion613.com

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