

## CENTER TO HELP FAMILIES DURING DRUG TREATMENT

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Faye [REDACTED] still remembers the panic and confusion she felt in December when her grandson said he wanted to go to Straight Inc. to fight his drug addiction.

"I didn't know where I was going," said [REDACTED] of Hollywood. "I needed help."

A woman from Tequesta who was involved with Straight Inc. came to the rescue. She offered support and even gave [REDACTED] directions to get her grandson to the treatment facilities in Tampa and Orlando.

"It's was unbelievable how they took care of things," [REDACTED] said. "And now this many months later he is starting to put it all back together."

The experience convinced [REDACTED] that she had to help other families in similar trouble. Now [REDACTED] is a Straight volunteer.

She intends to stay busy.

The nonprofit group will celebrate the opening of a family service center tonight at 6151 Miramar Parkway, Suite 317, in Miramar.

The event is by invitation only. Acting Miramar Mayor William Cresswell will give a key to the city to Bernadine Braithwaite, the national executive director of Straight Inc.

The office will be used as a meeting place for family support groups and a place to get information about the program, which relies on anonymity and positive peer pressure.

So far, 11 families from Kendall to Fort Lauderdale have used the Miramar center. If you would like information about Straight Inc., call 987-7886, [REDACTED] at 966-3650 or Michele Poole at 493-8232 in Fort Lauderdale.

### Healthy home

Medical Personnel Pool, a national nursing agency that provides home health care, has a new home of its own in Pembroke Pines.

They are going to celebrate with a grand opening from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony officiated by Mayor Charles Flanagan at 2:30 p.m.

The new offices are located at 2440 N. University Dr., Pembroke Pines. For information, call 436-6000.

### Golden beauties

The bathing suit and talent competition were missing, but the contestants in the Hollywood Hills Nursing Home beauty pageant couldn't have been more lovely.

The pageant was held Friday in celebration of national Nursing Home Week. It was limited to eight contestants, each had to be 80 or older and selecting a winner was tough.

I know. I was one of the judges.

Each participant wore her favorite dress and a red-ribbon sash over her shoulder. They approached the judges one at a time and had to answer two prepared questions.

"If you could travel today, where would you like to go?" a judge asked Harriet Thorner, 97, the oldest contestant.

"You invite me and I'll go anywhere," she said smiling in her pink silk dress and gold beads.

"Who do you most admire?" ventured another judge.

"Well," she said sheepishly. "I've had a couple lovers."

Thorner won hands down.

She was crowned by judge and Hollywood Mayor Mara Giulianti. Other participants -- who were all winners by my score sheet -- included Mary Jackson, 93, Amanda Berry, 88, Elizabeth Chowanietz, 87, Helen Rogers, 88, Sophie Ruskin, 88, Frances Tarantola, 86, and Hannah Grupp, 89.

Lost Treasures, found

Lost Treasures -- the Cystic Fibrosis fund-raiser hosted by the Design Center of the Americas (DCOTA) in Dania -- was a real find.

The event raised more than \$40,000 for 30,000 children in America with the fatal disease.

Nearly 350 guests paid \$75 each to attend the event on May 6, which included a dinner, dancing to Rick Carmen's Starlitter Orchestra, a silent auction and a treasure hunt using clues hidden in the names of DCOTA showrooms. Prizes included trips, rugs, dinners and furniture.

DCOTA developer and CEO Marvin Danto and his wife Betty, were the evening's honorary chairmen. DCOTA President James Danto and his wife Renay were co-chairmen along with Joan Kerns, DCOTA general manager.

"A child should never be allowed to die," Kerns said. 'Cystic Fibrosis (foundation) is close to finding a cure. We are determined to help.'

If you have a friend or neighbor who deserves a mention, write to Wendy Shaffer, Neighbors, 5555 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Fla. 33021 or call 985-4519.

- Caption: photo: Harriet Thorner
- Memo: FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

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