



Vicky Causer (center) greets some of the models before the show.

Photo by Felicia McMillan

Lee

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had some alterations done for a man's outfit. Her brother had purchased some items that needed to be tailored.

"After I saw her work, I asked her to make outfits for me. I have purchased seven outfits from her shop," Dobbins said. "They are very unique. I do not like to see other people wearing the same outfits that I have purchased. All I have to do is describe what I want, and she can make it happen."

Cassie Kotas, 15, and her best friend, Samantha Stanco, met Causer when she designed some uniforms for the pep squad at Meadowlark Middle School. Since then, Kotas has had Causer design three other outfits to suit her taste.

Lisa Oakes, 33, met Causer at Meadowlark Middle School because Oakes serves as the cheerleading coach there. Causer designed uniforms for the squad.

"She has not designed any outfits for me personally, but believe me, she will," Oakes said.

Homeowners

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America. Graduates also spent time with case managers and homeownership experts. When those in the program save at least \$1,000, they become eligible for government and nonprofit funds that could double or even triple the graduates' down payments.

Danny Haire, an ESR employee who is the chairperson of the program, said the program is designed for low-income people - those who need extra help in making the American dream come true. The program works with about eight banks to pre-qualify its graduates for mortgages. So far, 48 graduates have purchased homes. The graduates' mortgages have leveraged more than \$4 million.

Haire said behind the success stories is a great possibility that the cycle of poverty, of which many of the graduates are a part, is being broken.

"It gets rid of that generational poverty type thing because these people become homeowners, then the children see what's going on and then maybe they will be homeowners as well," he said.

Atkinson

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Foundation's Next Century Schools program. Around 275 students are enrolled at the school in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The Principal of the Year Award is sponsored by Wachovia Bank and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. The Wachovia Corp. has sponsored the financial awards for the Principal of the Year competition for the last 24 years.

Atkinson's career with WS/FCS began in 1983. She taught at the former Northwest Junior High School, Ashley Middle School and East Forsyth High School. Between 1989 and 1993, she served as a high school language arts specialist and high school instructional generalist in the central office. Before joining The Downtown School in 1997 as principal, she was assistant principal at Kimberley Park Elementary.

The Downtown School's small community feels like family to Atkinson, who said that she has the best staff and parents in Forsyth County.



Janet Atkinson celebrates her win with her daughter, Jennifer.

Donald Dykes wore a suit that Causer designed for him during the show. The plaid tailored jacket matched black slacks.

"I met Vicky Lee through my first lady, Rev. Gloria Samuels, at Goodwill Baptist Church. She made this suit for me, and I enjoy the relaxed fit," Dykes said. "It is easier on me to have someone design what fits me because I don't have to search or wonder if it fits."

One spectator said: "I like her taste in combining fabrics, colors, feathers, fringe. I loved that lime green and plaid suit. I think I would put fringe on my nose if I could pull it off. All of the denim outfits were great, and I loved the bold colors."

Faith Tuttle has purchased 30 outfits from Causer. Tuttle is a size four. She said it is easy to find attractive size fours for juveniles but not for adults.

"I can't always find what I'm looking for in the store. Causer offers me good fabric choices and great style. If I go this route, I can get exactly what I want," Tuttle said.

Causer usually requires three to four weeks' notice for special

occasion cuts. She offers the unexpected, imported silk knits, empire sleeves, purple swing coats, fuchsia and royal blue jacket dresses, bold colors and unique combinations of fabrics.

Terry Stanco was very impressed with the fall line of clothing.

"I like the way the clothes flow. The materials she used helped the hemlines to move gracefully and smoothly as the women walked," Stanco said. "I loved the jagged hemline and the fringe on the hem. It looked like it had been cut on an angle."

Naasira Muhammad is very familiar with Causer's work. "I have seen many of her wedding dresses, and she does alterations for a lot of the shops at the mall," Muhammad said.

In her spring show, Causer will continue to focus on unique fashion flair. Her children - Chanda Causer, Akil Muhammad and Khalid Muhammad - are always available to assist her with her shows. Other models included Sacha Beacum, Erin Jordan, Morgan Hodges, Britney Dunlap, Jasmine Stevens and Samantha Stanco.

ates that she wants to be one of the first to receive a dinner invitation once they settle in.

"I am looking forward to having my pinto beans and corn bread in your new house," Wellman said.

For more information on the program, call 722-9400.

Women with breast cancer will share survival stories

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Charlene Roseboro has been in remission from breast cancer for the last two years. Before doctors detected a lump during a routine mammogram, she never had any concerns about developing the disease. On Saturday, she will join other local women who are living with breast cancer at the Pink Ribbon Talks in Clemmons. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"I like to learn more in case I do get sick again or I might be able to help someone else in this situation," said Roseboro, who is a patient care assistant at Forsyth Medical Center.

Because Roseboro's lump was found early, she only needed to undergo a minimal amount of chemotherapy - something for which she feels blessed.

The Pink Ribbon Talks, in its second year, is a one-day forum for women with breast cancer. Numerous breast cancer specialists, such as Dr. Hyman Muss, will give tips on treatments, resources and recovery. Muss is a professor of medicine at the University of Vermont and the director of hematology/oncology at Fletcher Allen Health Care. He will deliver the keynote address on life after breast cancer.

Other local health care professionals will conduct a series of discussion sessions such as "Jump-Start Your Immune System," "Putting It Back Together" and "Learning to Live Again."

There also will be a Gathering of Friends show with displays from vendors such as



Roseboro

Chic Wig Salon, The Custom Source, Dignity Products and Mary Kay Cosmetics, to name a few.

Cancer Services Inc., Forsyth Regional Cancer Center and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center are presenting the event.

It's not unusual for women like Roseboro who are along in their recovery from breast cancer to attend the talks, said Linda Miller, a patient advocate at Cancer Services. Cancer Services provides emotional, physical and financial support to local cancer patients and their families.

"Women are really interested in what they can do to keep (breast cancer) from coming back," said Miller, who has experienced three recurrences of breast cancer. "Three-quarters of the women (at the talks) will have been out of treatment for three years but still on the journey."

Many of the programs offered at Cancer Services deal with cancer prevention awareness, said Miller, and the talks are a way to cater to women who have breast can-

cer. The Pink Ribbon Talks is the only program of its kind in the Triad.

"It's sort of a lifetime commitment you make to staying well," Miller said. "Women want to know what they can do to keep themselves well. When women finish treatment, people expect them to get back to their normal life. The cancer survivor doesn't want to keep burdening their family, but they still need to talk....You're never the same. Cancer forever changes who you are."

Miller encourages women, depending on their risk factors and family history, to get yearly mammograms before the age of 40. She said a woman is more at risk for breast cancer if a sister has had the disease than their mother.

Roseboro said that she looks forward to fellowshiping with other women and participating in a day of learning and sharing about a disease you can survive.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for women aged 20-59 in the United States. African-American women are less likely to get breast cancer than white women, but they are more likely to die from it. Eighty percent of all breast lumps are not cancerous. Medicare pays for an annual screening mammogram for women aged 40 and older.

The Pink Ribbon Talks will take place at the Village Inn Golf & Conference Center, 6205 Ramada Drive in Clemmons, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no charge for the event. For more information, call Cancer Services at 760-9983.

Grandparents

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age of children under 18 living in a grandparent-headed homes. That was 6.3 percent in 2000, compared with 5.5 percent in 1990 and 3.6 percent in 1980.

The latest census report found that grandparents acted as caregivers most often in American

Indian and black families. About 56 percent of Indian grandparents and 52 percent of black grandparents living with grandchildren identified themselves as the main caregivers.

The numbers for Indians and blacks are due in part to stronger cultural ties to grandparenting roles in those populations and because those groups tend to

make less money and are more apt to have several generations living in the same home, said Roderick Harrison, a demographer with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, which looks at issues concerning minorities.

The rates were 43 percent among non-Hispanic whites, 35 percent for Hispanics, and 20 percent for Asians.

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