

TODAY'S TOPIC

LOCAL CHARITIES

## Restoring Hope Clothing Boutique has its first event coming up March 20 and still has tickets to sell. All proceeds go to the Combat Veterans To Careers.

By **MADDIE CUTLER**  
Daily Sun Senior Writer

Tracy Mann started her new job and hit the ground running, eager to find ways to support Restoring Hope Clothing Boutique.

Mann is the manager of the store in Wildwood, which supports Combat Veterans to Careers (CVC). On March 20

the store has a fashion show to raise money for the nonprofit.

"It was my idea, and I'm nervous but so excited," Mann said. "It's right here in the store, featuring items that we have."

The fashion show will feature four categories: chicos, sports, fun in the sun, and formal. Overall there are 20 looks in the show.

"I'm in the show as the emcee, and I'll talk about not

only the clothes but what we do here at the store and for the charity," Mann said. "For about \$1, 95 cents goes back to Combat Veterans to Careers."

Jaylen Memmoli is a barista at the Honor Grounds Cafe attached to Restoring Hope Clothing Boutique.

Memmoli will wear the final outfit in the fashion show, which is a sparkling white wedding dress.

"It feels good to support the community," Memmoli said. "I know David as a family friend so I knew about the store and the cafe, and I wanted to help them out."

David Booth is the owner of Restoring Hope Clothing Boutique and its sister store, Restoring Hope Thrift Store, and is the founder of Combat Veterans to Careers.

CVC is a nonprofit that helps veterans after they leave the armed forces, teaching life skills, supporting veteran families and more.



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**Tracy Mann, store manager of Restoring Hope Clothing Boutique, holds the showstopper piece for the March 20 fashion show. The dress, along with everything else featured, was donated to the store.**

A big passion project of Booth's is the "What's Next" suicide prevention program within CVC.

Booth said suicide is a huge issue for veterans, and he aims to help as many fellow

veterans as he can.

Sandee Richmond, operations manager for Combat Veterans to Careers, said it is always a blessing to have the support of the community.

"We're hoping the fashion show will bring awareness of the boutique to the community," she said. "Our main goal is the "What's Next" program and this fashion show will directly help with that."

Mann is also a veteran, and she said working at Restoring Hope Clothing Boutique makes her feel as if she is helping improve the lives of other veterans.

"Being able to give back in this way, it's the least I can do," Mann said. "I'm a veteran, and working here is one way that I can help support Combat Veterans to Careers."

All of the pieces featured in the fashion show are from the store and will be available for purchase after the event. Mann said each of the 20 people walking in

the show are volunteers with the stores and CVC.

"No one is a fashion show professional, but everyone is so excited to participate," she said. "It's the first big event we've had in the store, and I'm really looking forward to it."

The show can accommodate about 100 guests and still has more than half of the tickets still for sale. Each ticket is \$20 per person and features door prizes, along with a catered lunch courtesy of Roberto's Ristorante & Pizzeria.

The show is from 10 a.m. to noon at the store.

Tickets can be purchased at Restoring Hope Clothing Boutique at 104 E. Wonders St. in Wildwood, or online at combatveteranstocareers.org. For more information call

352-461-0504.

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