



Baylee Ginther, left, a freshman at Thunder Ridge High School gets a good-luck hug from her sister, Min Fei.



Natalie Fuller and Alison Hradek have some fun on the runway. Their outfits are from Little Me's.



Irene and Jack Unrau with their supermodel daughter, Staci, a first-grader at Governor's Ranch Elementary School in Littleton.



Actress Virginia Williams (USA Network's "Fairly Legal") escorted models Sah'ni Sanford and Isaac Berant.

Global Down runway sparkles

By Joanne Davidson
The Denver Post



Eric Merriken and Alyssa Kuenning were among the young professionals supporting the benefit.



Gold safety pins make for an interesting collar on Alli Halton's dress by Moschino. She carries an Yves Saint Laurent clutch, and her bracelet is vintage Chanel.

The Hollywood contingent — Quincy Jones, Natasha Bedingfield, Stephanie Kramer and Virginia Williams — certainly added zing to the Global Down Syndrome Foundation's fourth Be Beautiful Be Yourself Fashion Show.

Yet even they would admit that their stature was eclipsed by DeOndra Dixon, Luke Zimmerman and the 27 other young people with Down syndrome whose sparkle lit up the Sheraton Denver Downtown's huge Plaza Ballroom on Saturday night.

In addition to modeling clothing from Little Me's, Gracie's and Men's Wearhouse, Dixon, the sister of Academy Award-winning actor Jamie Foxx, and Zimmerman, who stars on "The Secret Life of the American Teenager," were recognized as the past and current recipients, respectively, of the Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award.

Jones is the international spokesman for the cause, and it's a job he relishes. "These kids deserve a chance, and the Global Down Syndrome Foundation gives it to them. I love how you guys roll," he declared.

Foxx received the award, too, and accepted via videotaped message sent from a film location in Canada.

From its start in an airplane hangar in Broomfield, Be Beautiful Be Yourself has grown into an event that draws worldwide attention. It is also staged in Washington, D.C., with the purpose of illustrating that words like "can't" and "shouldn't" do not apply to the differently abled.

"There is no disability when it comes to desire," says Michelle Sie-Whitten, the foundation's executive director and the mother of Sophia, a thriving 9-year-old who was born with Down syndrome.

The \$1.5 million that was raised goes to the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome, which is located on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

Nancy Sevo, whose credits include organizing fundraisers for Denver Zoo and the former Beacon Center, chaired Be Beautiful Be Yourself 2012 with help from Annabel Bowlen, Debra McKenney, Judi Wolf, Jay Mills, Kay Burke, Nicole Gampp, Shane Phillips, Mary Tuten and Judianne Atencio. Quinn Washington, Kristi Fote and Jesse Schroffell led the effort to



Steven Kennedy, left, a junior at Summit High School in Breckenridge, and Conifer High School senior Alex Teleaga show Broncos cheerleader Ashley how to strike a model's pose. Photos by Steve Peterson, Special to The Denver Post

involve young professionals.

Bowlen, whose husband, Pat, owns the Denver Broncos, was the live-auction chair and contributed three of the most popular items: dinner for 10 at Elway's Cherry Creek with the Bowlens and John and Paige Elway; the opportunity to enjoy a Broncos home game with the Bowlens in the owner's box at Sports Authority Field; and a flyaway on the team charter for a 2012 season away game.

The party's glam factor began at check-in. After receiving their table assignment and bid number, guests were escorted to the pre-dinner reception by Miss Colorado Hannah Porter and other pageant winners.

Dinner — butter-poached beef tenderloin with sriracha hollandaise — was served at tables decorated with Broncos blue and orange arrangements from Newberry Brothers. Among the guests: Gov. John Hickenlooper, Dr. Tom Blumenthal, executive director of the Linda Crnic

Institute; Leslie and Land Title founder Bill Vollbracht; Leadership Circle benefactors Ricki and Dave Rest and Debbi and Lee Alpert; Shereen and Michael Pollak, the owners of Hyde Park Jewelers; Cindy and attorney Steve Farber; Arlene and Barry Hirschfeld; Sharon Magness Blake and Ernie Blake, whose guests included Denver Broncos offensive lineman Zane Beadles; Jaylene Smith and her beau, Bob Spicer, executive vice president of First Financial Equity Corp.; Richmond American Homes chief David Mandarich and his wife, Bonnie; Maureen and Ren Cannon; Larry, Carol and Courtney Mize; Liberty Media's Mike and Amber Fries; Elaine Wolf and Larry Nathan; and mistress of ceremonies Kim Christensen of 9News.

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Brian Stevens walks the runway with his daughter, Samantha, the 2012 Global Down Syndrome Foundation Ambassador.

Online:
More photos from the Be Beautiful Be Yourself Fashion Show
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DeOndra Dixon, left, and her father, George Dixon, with Quincy Jones, Michelle Sie-Whitten, Tom Whitten and their children Sophia and Patrick.



John and Paige Elway, left, with Pat and Annabel Bowlen. Annabel Bowlen chaired the benefit's auction committee.



John and Anna Sie, left, started the Global Down Syndrome Foundation; Nancy Sevo, in a Pucci gown, chaired the fashion show. Sevo's husband, John, is on the right.



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outfits



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A star-studded Be Beautiful Be Yourself Fashion Show

Posted Oct 18, 2012

By

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Music icon Quincy Jones and actors Luke Zimmerman, Stephanie Kramer and Virginia Williams were among the celebrities flying in for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation's annual Be Beautiful Be Yourself Fashion Show. Read more about the event that raised \$1.5 million for the Linda Crnic Institute on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora in Joanne Davidson's column, [RSVP](#).



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Irene, Staci, and Jack Unrau. Photo by Steve Peterson, Special to The Denver Post

A star-studded Be Beautiful Be Yourself Fashion Show

Posted Oct 18, 2012

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Staci Unrau waves to the audience. Photo by Steve Peterson, Special to The Denver Post