



Andria Nolan, Dr. Steven Ronik & Pam Galan

by Kevin Lane

## *Celebrate!* Mardi Gras Style

Guests attending the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Henderson Mental Health Center's Gala in the Grand Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 will feel like they have been transported to New Orleans in time for Mardi Gras. They will start the evening by walking through the "French Quarter," where they will be greeted with the traditional beads and have their souvenir photo taken. The event takes place on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 p.m., with dinner and dancing starting at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$175.00.

Inside the ballroom, look for areas such as the "Jazz Fest," "Haunted House" corner, a "Riverboat" section and of course "Bourbon Street". What would a fundraiser be without a Silent Auction, which Henderson's Host Committee has been assembling for months. If all of this isn't exciting enough, everyone is automatically entered into a raffle to win a trip to New Orleans for two. To enhance the Mardi Gras theme, dress is cocktail casual attire with a request to wear a Masquerade Mask, with a contest for the best mask.

"Our Gala is our signature fundraising event of the year. Not only is it great fun, but it really helps fill the gap in funding our clients' unmet needs and also is a great way for us to get the word out about why the mental health needs of our community are so important," said Dr. Steven Ronik, Henderson Center's Chief Executive Officer.

While the fundraiser focuses on insuring guests enjoy a great evening of dining, dancing and socializing, the event offers Henderson an opportunity to remind those attending of some startling facts. "Depression affects more than eighteen million Americans, making it the most common serious brain disease in the US," according to depression research done by the National Institute of Mental Health. Closer to home, the Coalition to End Homelessness estimates, one third to one half of homeless people in Broward County suffer from some degree of mental disorder.

Henderson Mental Health Center is the oldest and largest not for profit, community based behavioral healthcare system in South Florida. Henderson provides comprehensive, recovery focused services to twenty thousand people annually, and receives over one hundred and fifty thousand telephone calls at the Crisis Center. Henderson provides a continuum of high quality, community-based prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation services by utilizing best practice and evidence based treatment models. Henderson Mental Health Center's mission is to be the premier provider of accessible, cost effective, and quality behavioral healthcare services to the people of South Florida, in order to promote their mental health and well-being. Henderson's programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (C.A.R.F.).

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