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Designer Thrift to Open in New Location, Benefiting Overtown Women's Shelter
Lotus House Thrift to be unveiled in Midtown/Design District with grand celebration

MIAMI (September 10, 2009) On Sept. 26, noon to 2 p.m., Lotus House Thrift will host a **"Love 2 Shop - Shop 2 Love" Grand Opening Celebration** of its new location at 203 NW 36th Street (corner of NW 2nd Ave), bordering the edge of Midtown and the Design District. Lotus House Thrift will specialize in designer, vintage, like new and gently used clothing, furnishings, collectables and more, all at great prices for today's cost conscious shopper. All proceeds of the thrift shop will help fund shelter, meals, education, counseling, health services, job readiness training, social services and more, provided by the Lotus House Women's Shelter and other initiatives of the Sundari Foundation, serving poor, disadvantaged and homeless women and children seeking a better way of life.

"We have received donations of the most amazing women's and men's designer clothing, gorgeous handbags and shoes, darling children's outfits, great furnishings, beautiful antiques – and our phones are ringing off the hook, gratefully, as word has begun to spread," said Constance Collins Margulies, Lotus House Director. "Lotus House Thrift offers us a creative way to help fund the shelter's operations and programming in these difficult economic times, at the same time we are able to provide for the basic clothing needs, work attire and furnishings for the women and children of Lotus House as they transition to their new homes. This is a great way to clean out your closet or the spare bedroom and truly make a difference for women and children desperately in need with your tax deductible donations."

Another special feature - the thrift shop will be run and staffed entirely by Lotus House guests and alumni. "The thrift shop gives us an opportunity to create a "real world" job training program and hands-on work experience for the women at Lotus House. We want to showcase the exemplary work of our women as prospective employees and create partnerships with employers in our community to provide job opportunities for our graduates," added Marcia Frazier, the new Program Director, herself a Lotus House alumni.

The Foundation is seeking sponsors and employers to partner with in the new job training program. Developers Diversified Realty, owner of Midtown Shops, has already stepped up and provided state of the art fixtures for the new store.

Lotus House Thrift will host its **“Love 2 Shop – Shop to Love”** Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, September 26 from noon to 2 p.m., and everyone is welcome. Regular hours for the thrift shop will be Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. thereafter. Arrangements can be made for pick-up of larger donations by emailing thrift@lotushouseshelter.org or calling the thrift shop at 305-576-4112. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

About Lotus House

Lotus House is a unique women’s resource center and transitional housing facility, providing shelter, providing wrap-around support services and access to a wide range of resources for homeless women and infants. Not just a temporary shelter, Lotus House is a place where the minds, bodies and spirits of women in need are nurtured and supported to empower them to improve the quality of their lives on every level, achieve greater self sufficiency, and build a better way of life for themselves and their children as they transition to permanent homes off the streets. Lotus House is operated by The Sundari Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, 501c3 public charity; see www.lotushouseshelter.org. For information on how you can help the Lotus House, contribute to its endowment, or become involved as a volunteer, please contact the Foundation’s President, Constance Collins Margulies, at president@lotushouseshelter.org or call Lotus House office at 305-365-2478.