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MEDIA RELEASE



## West Hartford Teen Flips For Jewish Family Service's Tara's Closet

West Hartford Resident Sadie Margolis is selling flip flops as part of her Bat Mitzvah Project to raise awareness and funds for Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford's (JFS) new program Tara's Closet. JFS launched *Tara's Closet* this summer providing clothing to individuals and families living in West Hartford, Bloomfield and the entire Greater Hartford area during temporary or long-term times of need. Tara's Closet is available to clients seasonally, by appointment, to try on clothing and take quality items in a boutique-style environment at no charge while maintaining one's dignity.

"I feel grateful to be able to help kids around my age receive clothing that they can enjoy just like I enjoy shopping at the mall," said Sadie. Last week, Sadie spoke at the B'nai Brith Youth Organization Leadership Conference to over 100 teens about Tara's Closet and the struggle of mental illness. Each participant received a pair of flip flops. "I hope that people will wear the flip flops and spread the word of Tara's Closet throughout our community," adds Sadie.

Tara's Closet honors the memory of Tara Savin. Tara was a bright woman who suffered from bipolar disorder. A graduate of Kingswood Oxford, where she was yearbook co-editor and voted Best Dressed, Tara had a flair for fashion. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Boston University where she majored in International Studies and minored in Women's Studies. Armed with a strong foundation and a Masters Degree in Communications, Tara enjoyed a successful career at Town & Country Magazine in NYC. She pursued a second graduate degree from Fordham University in Social Work. She moved back to Hartford and had an internship in 2010 with JFS. At age 38, we lost Tara.

"Our mission is to enhance and strengthen the quality of life through the Jewish tradition of caring and compassion. JFS achieves its mission by helping individuals and families progress toward emotional well-being, self-reliance and more positive relationships. Through *Tara's Closet* we can continue to embrace possibility," states Anne Danaher, JFS Executive Director. Funds raised for *Tara's Closet* will support education and awareness programs to help other families impacted by mental illness.

To purchase a pair of flip flops, send an email to [kmargolis@jfshartford.org](mailto:kmargolis@jfshartford.org).

Tara's Closet will be open four days during the month of September by appointment only. Boutique hours are 10 AM - 1 PM; Tuesday, September 6, 2016; Monday's September 12, 19, 26, 2016. To make a confidential appointment, call Patti, 860-236-1927 ext. 7129 or email [pweiner@jfshartford.org](mailto:pweiner@jfshartford.org). For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/tarasclotet>

JFS focuses on three core areas: Counseling, Education, and Community Support, and utilizes a variety of counseling treatment approaches and can help clients address a wide range of issues. Visit [jfshartford.org](http://jfshartford.org) to see a list of clinicians and their areas of expertise. For information about giving opportunities, contact Kim Margolis at 860-236-1927 or [kmargolis@jfshartford.org](mailto:kmargolis@jfshartford.org).

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