



The CTAAFSC Survivors Ball Showcase is a 75-minute fashion and storytelling experience presented as a featured segment within the 2026 Central Texas African American Family Support Conference (CTAAFSC)—a two-day gathering focused on learning, connection, and community wellness.

Designed for the main sanctuary of Greater Mt. Zion Church, this showcase honors survivors with dignity while creating an environment that is family-friendly, accessible, and emotionally resonant. The experience is built to complement the broader CTAAFSC theme: “Whole People. Whole Communities. Every Voice Matters. Every Story Heals.”

At its heart, the Survivors Ball Showcase is about visibility and belonging—a celebration of those who self-identify as survivors and those walking alongside them. It holds space for individuals navigating physical disabilities or dismemberment, invisible disabilities or chronic illness, mental health conditions, medical recovery, grief or identity-based trauma, autism and neurodivergence, and LGBTQIA+ identity, transitions, or rejection. This is not a retelling of pain for performance. It is a reclaiming of voice—a public affirmation that healing deserves community, and that resilience can be witnessed with respect.

The experience unfolds in three acts—each one intentionally crafted to keep the audience engaged while honoring the sanctuary setting:

Act I: Voices That Heal features short survivor testimonials delivered as two-minute oratory moments. These are intentionally brief and powerful—grounded in truth, hope, and the strength it takes to keep going. The audience is invited to listen not as spectators, but as a community practicing care.

Act II: Rhythm of Resilience transitions into artistic performance segments—spoken word, vocal features, and creative vignettes that translate lived experience into art. The performances add

emotional depth and momentum, offering catharsis, celebration, and moments of uplift. Every piece remains conference appropriate and family-friendly, reflecting reverence for the space while still feeling contemporary and alive.

Act III: The Runway Testament culminates in a fashion finale. In this act, fashion becomes a visual language—a moving gallery of stories told through silhouette, texture, and intentional color. Collections are guided by themes of triumph, transformation, and resilience—often reinforced through cause-symbolic base and accent colors:

- Silver = Physical disabilities / dismemberment ⚜
- Teal = Invisible disabilities / chronic illness ⚡
- Green = Mental health conditions 💚
- Pink = Medical recovery journeys 💕
- Black = Grief, identity-based trauma, or personal loss 💔
- Gold = Autism & neurodivergence 💛
- Rainbow = LGBTQIA+ identity, transitions, or rejection 🏳️
- Purple = Domestic violence / child abuse
- White = Suicide loss
- Red = HIV/AIDS / substance recovery

To keep the runway cinematic and meaningful, music is instrumental (designer-selected), with brief survivor voice recordings layered over the track—allowing lived experience to be heard without interrupting show flow. Survivor models of all body types, races, ages, gender identities, and abilities are welcomed. The goal is not perfection; it is presence. Not “fitting” a mold—but expanding what the runway can represent.

The CTAAFSC Survivors Ball Showcase invites the community to witness something rare: a space where testimony becomes art, art becomes movement, and movement becomes collective strength. It is entertainment with purpose—attention-grabbing, emotionally honest, and rooted in a clear message: whole people build whole communities, and every story matters.

Call to action:

- To learn more about the full CTAAFSC conference experience and programming, visit www.CTAAFSC.com
- To participate in the Survivors Ball Showcase segment (models/designers/performers/volunteers), apply via www.eMaGi360.com/events | 

Deadline: January 26, 2026