



## **Working Wardrobes Gears Up for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Major Expansion and Move Into New Center**

*Nonprofit Dedicated to Helping Men and Women Re-enter the Workforce Launches Fundraising Campaign*

COSTA MESA, Calif., November 2, 2009—As it approaches its 20<sup>th</sup> year empowering thousands of men and women in crises to confidently re-enter the workforce, nonprofit organization Working Wardrobes has outgrown its current digs in Fountain Valley and expanded into a 16,500-square foot Center in Costa Mesa. To fund the move and expand its life-changing services so it can reach thousands more each year, Working Wardrobes has launched the “Hip To Be Square” campaign through which donors will “own” square-feet of the new space.

Jerri Rosen, founder and CEO of Working Wardrobes, explains that the Hip To Be Square campaign intends to find “owners” for as many of the new Center’s 16,500 square feet as possible – with each square foot “sold” for a \$100 tax deductible donation. All donors – corporations, organizations, and individuals – will be recognized on a donor wall in the new building.

“We are excited about our campaign because it gives everyone an opportunity to support the work we do, including this amazing expansion of services,” said Rosen. “We will be very happy to receive \$100 donations from those who are able to purchase a single square-foot section, and of course will be thrilled with those who can step up and claim hundreds of square feet.”

The previous 10,000-square foot facility, the Working Wardrobes home for the past five and a half years, has been sold by the owners at the same time the organization realized it has greatly outgrown the space for its expanding needs. The new Working Wardrobes Career Center will be home to not only staff and volunteers, but also an unprecedented extension of services. Working Wardrobes will be able to provide year-round life and career skills training, expanded job-hunting resources with an extended multimedia center, a professional salon, new wardrobe centers, a dedicated team of career developers, and more opportunities to transform lives by hosting in-house

the organization's signature Day of Self-Esteem events. The space will also include a very large community meeting space, which can be rented for modest fees by companies, organizations and clubs. Working Wardrobes wants its new Center to be a large part of what makes the community come together.

"We are grateful for the community's support over the years which has helped us achieve this expansion. Now we are looking to the future and inviting everyone to play a part in serving even more clients, more effectively than ever before," said Rosen. "With a record number of men and women in need of Working Wardrobes' services to overcome the economic downturn, we are doing our best to answer the call and provide life-changing career development and wardrobe services. Our goal is to help give these individuals, their families, and the economy a jumpstart."

Working Wardrobes has established itself as a leader in providing career development skills and the tools for success and self-sufficiency. Over nearly two decades, the organization has transformed the lives of more than 50,000 men and women who have experience alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence, emancipation from the foster care system, homelessness, traumatic financial loss, among other life crises.

"We've done tremendous work over the years with the support of our generous donors and volunteers, but there is still much more work to be done," added Rosen. "We are grateful that so many people think of us as the organization to bring the excellent quality professional clothing they no longer need. While this wardrobing need is stronger than ever, our priority is to be recognized as the go-to Center for serious job seekers. To deliver all of our program services require that we be an organization that focuses on raising the necessary funding to continue and expand our good work."

The new Working Wardrobes Career Center is located at 3030 Pullman Avenue in Costa Mesa. An open house will be held Dec. 10. For more information about Working Wardrobes and to contribute to the Hip To Be Square campaign, call 714-210-2460 or visit [www.workingwardrobes.org](http://www.workingwardrobes.org).

#### **About Working Wardrobes**

Working Wardrobes, an independent nonprofit organization, empowers men, women and young adults in crises to transform themselves and confidently enter the workforce with career development, wardrobe and grooming services. Since 1991, Working Wardrobes has served over 50,000 adults emerging from a wide spectrum of backgrounds including welfare-to-work, alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, transitional homelessness, catastrophic illness and traumatic financial losses. For more information about Working Wardrobes, call 714-210-2460 or visit [www.workingwardrobes.org](http://www.workingwardrobes.org).

###