

For Immediate Release
October 12, 2009



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**WORKING WARDROBES SELLS OUT FIRST-EVER
“BLUE JEANS & THE BLUES” FUNDRAISER**

Casual, “Denim-Chic” Event Raised Funds to Help People in Crises Get Back to Work

COSTA MESA, Calif. – Lakeside Lagoon played host to the first-ever “Blue Jeans & the Blues,” a night of music and barbeque under the stars benefiting Orange County nonprofit Working Wardrobes. More than 420 guests attended to raise more than \$85,500 for the organization, which has helped upwards of 50,000 men, women and young adults over the past 20 years to re-enter the workforce with renewed self-confidence, career skills and professional attire.

“We are continually humbled and amazed by the generosity of our supporters, especially in a time when the community need is greater than ever,” said Jerri Rosen, CEO and founder of the organization. “It is a tough year for giving, yet people still recognize the tremendous value of the work we do, and we are deeply grateful for that.”

Guests in their denim best were treated to the music of blues songstress Pamela G, while enjoying casino games, a photo booth, and a traditional barbeque dinner catered by award-winning Beach Pit BBQ. Raffle tickets were sold for opportunity drawings, and a live auction offered chances for bidders to ride on the Goodyear Blimp and take a seven-night trip to Cabo San Lucas, among other unique packages. The most popular auction item, an exclusive dinner for eight prepared by executive chef Martin Gilligan (a former Working Wardrobes’ client), sold for \$1,800.

Gilligan was one of two Working Wardrobes success stories who spoke to the crowd about the profound impact that the organization has had on their lives. “Working Wardrobes believed in me when I didn’t even believe in myself,” said Gilligan, who escaped a life of drug and alcohol abuse to become the executive chef of Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens in Los Angeles. Additionally, success story Rowena Jacobe shared how she fled a domestic violence situation with her three children, also found employment after getting career counseling and a confidence boost from the services of Working Wardrobes.

The evening served as a kick-off to Working Wardrobes’ latest fundraising endeavor, “Hip to be Square,” which invites community members to fund at least one square foot of the new 16,500 square foot Costa Mesa facility that the growing organization will be moving into on Nov. 2. The new Career Center will house a career development area, wardrobing and grooming stations, staff offices, and a donation center, providing life-changing services to thousands more men, women and young adults in the community.

Blue Jeans & the Blues was chaired by Co-presidents LynnMarie Cooper and Allyson Schleicher and Co-Event chairs Linda Knoth and Ro Gallant-Brown of Designing Women, a guild supporting Working Wardrobes' mission to help adults in crises get back to work. Designing Women brings together dedicated, dynamic volunteers who organize fundraising events and build awareness of the services Working Wardrobes provides for the community. Sponsors of the event included Boeing, P2F Holdings, and The Allergan Foundation.

About Designing Women's Guild:

Designing Women, a Guild in support of Working Wardrobes programs that help adults in crises get back to work. The Guild's mission is to bring together a dynamic group of women to organize fundraising events, advocate on our behalf, and build awareness and membership in the community. They have a goal to diversify membership and bring in women with new areas of expertise to help achieve their mission, effectively and efficiently. Membership is open. Please email DesigningWomen@WorkingWardrobes.org to find out more.

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.

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