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**Working Wardrobes to Provide a Dose of Confidence at Men's Day of Self-Esteem® Oct. 10**

*Working Wardrobes Continues 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Transforms Lives of Hundreds More Men in Crises; Men's Wearhouse National Suit Drive to Benefit Event*

COSTA MESA, Calif., Sept. 8, 2010 – Working Wardrobes, currently celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, will transform the lives of 125 men in crises as part of its annual Men's Day of Self-Esteem, held this year on Sunday, Oct. 10, at Los Amigos High School in Fountain Valley. Re-entry into the working world poses real barriers to men in crises, but at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual event, men will receive a new look on the outside to help them discover confidence and self-sufficiency on the inside as they transition to the workforce.

Benefiting the Men's Day of Self-Esteem is the National Suit Drive, sponsored by Men's Wearhouse. Items collected at 42 Los Angeles and Orange County Men's Wearhouse locations from Sept. 1 through Sept. 30 will be donated to Working Wardrobes to support the Men's Day of Self-Esteem, which prepares men who have experienced homelessness, and/or alcohol and substance abuse to enter the job market by providing them with professional attire, grooming services and career development skills. For each suit that is donated, Men's Wearhouse will donate one new dress shirt to the cause.

There are two parts to the Working Wardrobes' Day of Self-Esteem celebration:

1. A series of Career Success workshops, which prepares the men with confidence building tools to discover their marketable skills. Professionally trained Success Coaches facilitate the workshops. When clients complete the entire series, they are individually invited to attend the October 10 event
2. The "Day of Self- Esteem" prepares men who have experienced alcohol and substance abuse, jail time and/or transitional homelessness, to enter the job market by providing them with professional attire, grooming services and additional career development skills.

"Confidence is essential in helping people feel ready to re-enter the workforce and achieve self-sufficiency," said Jerri Rosen, CEO and founder of Working Wardrobes. "Working Wardrobes provides vital tools – a suit and tie paired with essential career development services – that can go a long way toward helping each of our men walk into an interview with a positive outlook. We're encouraging the community to continue their generous support in these endeavors by donating funds or their gently used suits, shirts, ties, belts and shoes."

Patrick Tillich, who overcame a lifetime battle with drug addiction and alcoholism, is one of Working Wardrobes' greatest success stories and will speak at this year's event. Tillich, an

honorably discharged veteran, was homeless and unemployed for several years before becoming a client of New Directions, a program in Los Angeles for veterans. While at New Directions, Patrick attended the Career Success workshops and had an opportunity to participate in the Men's Day of Self Esteem in 2007, where he received the professional attire and interview skills needed to land a job.

Men from 11 recovery shelters and addiction programs from Orange and Los Angeles counties will attend the Day of Self-Esteem. Participants will be outfitted in professional attire, undergarments and accessories and will take advantage of a variety of grooming services, including haircuts, manicures and massages provided by hundreds of local volunteers and community partners. All clothing and services are provided at no cost to the men.

The event begins with a goal-setting seminars and an address by motivational speaker Raphael Natale, followed by a panel of career recruiters, wardrobing and grooming services, and ends with a career/resource fair featuring local companies and organizations including the Disneyland Resort, Double Tree Hotel, Kaiser Permanente and Macy's.

The Men's Day of Self-Esteem will be held on Sunday, Oct. 10, at Los Amigos High School, 16566 Newhope Street, Fountain Valley. Working Wardrobes is still seeking sponsorship, volunteers and donations. For more information and to contribute, please 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).

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