

Media Contact

Allison Hata / HKA, Inc. PR
Office: 714-426-0444
Allison@hkamarcom.com



Working Wardrobes 'Well-Suited' to Provide Added Dose of Confidence at Men's Day of Self-Esteem

Nonprofit to Help Transform Hundreds of Lives with Support from Men's Wearhouse National Suit Drive

COSTA MESA, Calif., Sept. 27, 2011 – Working Wardrobes, an inspiring Orange County nonprofit, will help transform the lives of more than 100 men emerging from life crises as part of its annual Men's Day of Self-Esteem, held this year on Sunday, Oct. 16, at Los Amigos High School in Fountain Valley. At the 15th annual event, clients will receive a crisp new look as well as career development training to help them rediscover confidence and self-sufficiency as they transition back into the workforce.

Men from nearly a dozen recovery shelters and addiction programs from Orange and Los Angeles counties will attend the Men's Day of Self-Esteem. Participants will be outfitted by volunteer personal shoppers in professional attire 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. The event concludes with a client fashion show where participants proudly display their new looks and speak emotionally about their experiences.

"Re-entry into the working world can often pose insurmountable barriers to men in crises, but the Men's Day of Self-Esteem provides vital tools that will give these men the confidence to move forward professionally and personally," said Jerri Rosen, CEO and founder of Working Wardrobes. "The support of our corporate advocates, Success Coaches, individual donors, volunteers and friends has allowed us to continue transforming the lives of hundreds of men, including veterans, and we are so grateful to everyone who has helped us put on this event for the last fifteen years."

Participants in the 2011 Men's Day of Self Esteem are referred by partner agencies. The clients, including honorably discharged veterans and men recovering from transitional homelessness, alcohol and substance abuse and other life crises, participate in series of six "First Steps to Career Success" workshops where they learn to define and appreciate their marketable skills and present themselves to employers, focus on attainable job goals and manage their careers to move up in the workplace. Following completion of the program, they celebrate by attending the empowering Men's Day of Self-Esteem event.

Men's Wearhouse has pledged its support of Working Wardrobes, with items collected from its National Suit Drive donated to support the Men's Day of Self-Esteem. Suits, shirts, pants and accessories will be collected at 42 Los Angeles and Orange County Men's Wearhouse locations from Sept. 1 through Sept. 30. For each suit that is donated, Men's Wearhouse will donate one new dress shirt and a tie to the cause.

The Waltos Group of Northwestern Mutual (Newport Beach) is also hosting a shoe drive in support of Working Wardrobes, engaging 150 representatives to gather 1,000 pairs of shoes to donate to the Men's Day of Self-Esteem. Waltos Group employees are also volunteering their time on the day of the event.

“This is an opportunity for us to give back to an organization that does so much for the community,” said Jimmy Cusimano, financial representative for the Waltos Group of Northwestern Mutual. “From the day I attended my first Men’s Day of Self Esteem, I knew this was an event that means so much to those who need our help, and I’m proud to have my organization’s full support.”

One of Working Wardrobes’ greatest success stories, Patrick Tillich, will speak again at this year’s event. Tillich is an honorably discharged veteran who overcame a lifetime battle with drug addiction and alcoholism after becoming a client of New Directions, a program in Los Angeles for veterans. While at New Directions, Tillich attended Working Wardrobes’ Career Success workshops and had an opportunity to participate in the Men’s Day of Self-Esteem in 2007. He received the professional attire and interview skills needed to land a job and is now able to provide for his 9-year-old daughter, Kassidi.

The event begins with a goal-setting seminar and an address by motivational speaker Raphael Natale, followed by a panel of career recruiters and then wardrobing and grooming services. It 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. 16, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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.

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 more than 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.

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