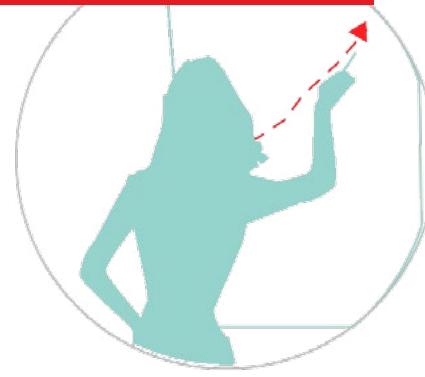


BOTTOMLESS CLOSET

connecting women and work

SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Innovations: Bottomless Closet looks to the future...



Last year Bottomless Closet began the process for the organization's third Strategic Plan. Bottomless Closet engaged an outside consultant to help the organization evaluate its current operations and strategy moving forward. The process included one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders as well as focus groups with staff and volunteers and a day long Strategic Planning Retreat attended by the Board of Directors and senior staff.

As a result, Bottomless Closet's highest goals were identified and prioritized by several Task Forces led by volunteers, staff and board. Below are the credos that will carry us into the coming years and guide our work:

VISION: Bottomless Closet envisions a time when all women overcome poverty and achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families.

MISSION: Bottomless Closet's mission is to be the connection that inspires and guides disadvantaged New York City women to enter the workforce and achieve success.

OUR VALUES

- Build self-esteem and self-confidence
- Promote professionalism and respect
- Uphold the spirit of volunteerism

OUR INTENDED IMPACT

- Facilitate entrance into the workforce
- Build core competencies for workplace success
- Increase self-confidence

Rosanna Scotto was one of the recipients of the first annual Transformation Award presented at our Annual Spring Luncheon on May 17, 2013. Visit <http://bit.ly/115uWvT> to watch Rosanna speak about Bottomless Closet on Good Day New York. See page 2 for full article.



Thank you to Lynne Glantz of Preview Textile Group for donating wonderful new outfits to our boutique! Clients who attended our Annual Spring Luncheon were dressed impeccably from head to toe in clothing donated by Lynne and others like her. Here is Caprice wearing one of Lynne's donated looks.



Here is Caprice wearing one of Lynne's donated looks.

EVENING UNDER THE STARS

OCTOBER 10, 2013

The YLC will host our annual cocktail party at Astra! We need donations for our silent auction—handbags, jewelry, tickets, experiences, etc. Please email Steffanie Levin at floyd47@mac.com with questions or to donate.

INNOVATORS: PARTNERS HELP BOTTOMLESS CLOSET MOVE FORWARD

Since our inception 14 years ago Bottomless Closet has assisted over 20,000 disadvantaged New York City women. Bottomless Closet has been, and continues to be, volunteer driven. Volunteers are the force behind our mission and integral to every aspect of the organization. We take great pride in partnering with our volunteers (individual and corporate) to ensure their connection to our mission is deeply engaging and exemplifies our core value of upholding the spirit of volunteerism in all that we do.



Bottomless Closet is innovating the way we carry out our services and programming with the goal of improving efficiency, maintaining high quality, increasing our impact, and measuring success. We are hopeful that these shifts in operations will boldly change the way we offer our programming and increase the impact on New York City women.

Innovations include:

- extending the length of the pre-interview appointments to allow for more intense coaching
- revamping the post hire appointment to focus coaching on early success on the job and financial management
- hold workshops off-site to allow for increased participation
- enhancing the resume review component portion



In addition to programmatic changes, Bottomless Closet has enhanced our communication and engagement with volunteers. We formed a Volunteer Committee; implemented a more comprehensive orientation and training of new volunteers; enriched continuing education including monthly Lunch and Learns. Bottomless Closet is also in the process of rolling out a Volunteer Survey to solicit feedback directly from volunteers to evaluate successes and challenges. Bottomless Closet looks forward so we may better serve the women of New York City.



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

MOODY'S

Moody's volunteers are a regular fixture here at Bottomless Closet. With monthly group projects, they have made a tremendous impact on our organization through their work with our clients and inventory management. Moody's is a great example of a company that makes the most of its relationship with Bottomless Closet.



Moody's volunteers with clients and Bottomless Closet volunteers

LUNCHEON

Bottomless Closet was thrilled to have 500+ guests at our Annual Spring Luncheon as we honored trailblazing women: Bridget van Kralingen, Senior Vice President, IBM Global Business Services; and Rosanna Scott, Co-Host, Fox 5 Good



More pictures on our website!

Day New York, who spoke about the importance of the woman behind the clothes. Lynn Povich, author of *The Good Girls Revolt*, had a message of courage and determination to make equality in the workplace a reality that was a powerful reminder of how far we have come. Echoing the messages of transformation were Annie and Caroline's stories which illustrated the lasting connections that Bottomless Closet makes with the women we serve. Thanks to our guests' outstanding generosity, we raised close to \$500,000 to help us advance our mission and assist New York City women.

REAL WOMEN ON THE REEL



More pictures on facebook!

Following the wildly successful *Real Women on the Runway* fashion shows, we debuted *Real Women on the Reel* on June 5. This cocktail party and awareness event included the premiere of our short film about the unique client transformation that happens at Bottomless Closet. The film, by Respect Films!, highlights the stories of our clients as they overcome challenging circumstances to gain confidence and navigate New York's job market. Over 200 people attended the event aimed at raising awareness about Bottomless Closet and the need for our services in the community. A big thank you to our event sponsors including HBO, SKYY Vodka, and Con Edison.

BOTTOMLESS CLOSET BOOK CLUB

The Personal Enrichment Series of workshops at Bottomless Closet aims to help our clients overcome challenges and obstacles in their lives while balancing the demands of work.

The Book Club, an integral part of the series, reads and discusses books that our clients can connect with and which offer insights into issues in their lives including poverty, domestic violence, family and women's empowerment. Recently, the Book Club discussed Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed* and 11 clients attended a lecture given by Ms. Ehrenreich at the 92nd Street Y. Upcoming discussions will include *The Good Girls Revolt* by Lynn Povich. This look at sexism in the workplace and the women who fought back resonates with our clients to this day.



Jenny Eskin and clients with Barbara Ehrenreich

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

As a member of The Women's Alliance, Bottomless Closet partnered with Ariela Alpha International for a Smart & Sexy Day on March 12, 2013. 27 clients spent the day at Ariela Alpha International headquarters meeting with the founder, Ariela Balk, and participating in workshops on time management, professional dressing in the workplace and improving their body image. This 2nd annual Smart & Sexy Day was one of regularly scheduled Career Days held with Bottomless Closet corporate partners. Career Days offer our clients exposure to corporate environments and professional development education while offering our corporate partners hands on volunteer opportunities that make an impact.



▶ Watch video testimonials from clients on facebook!



As we continue to serve more clients, **please consider making a donation** of your gently worn professional clothing and accessories (especially shoes and handbags). Our clients will greatly appreciate it!



One of the best ways to stay connected with Bottomless Closet is just a click away. Visit *BottomlessClosetNYC* on facebook or tweet us *@BttmlessClistNYC!*