

NEWS RELEASE
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**WARDROBE FOR OPPORTUNITY ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON AND
FUND-RAISER SET FOR MAY 11**

OAKLAND, Calif., April 18, 2007 – Wardrobe for Opportunity, the nonprofit organization that provides business clothing and career support to low-income jobseekers, will hold its annual **“Spring to Success Luncheon” on May 11 at the San Ramon Marriott at Bishop Ranch**. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a silent auction and other activities followed by lunch and a special program from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

The annual Spring to Success Luncheon is the primary fund-raiser for Wardrobe for Opportunity, which operates two facilities: one in downtown Oakland and one in Pleasant Hill. “This event is not only an inspirational celebration of our clients’ successes, our volunteers’ commitment and the generous supporters who help us to achieve our mission,” said Nicole Levine, executive director for Wardrobe for Opportunity, “but we hope to raise \$150,000 to support our programs, funds which are vital to our ability to help low-income jobseekers on their path to economic self sufficiency.”

The “Spring to Success Luncheon” celebrates two Clients of the Year, one man and one woman, who have overcome significant challenges to become employed and economically self-sufficient with Wardrobe for Opportunity’s assistance. The event also recognizes a volunteer of the organization who is lauded at the luncheon with an award for his or her unflagging efforts in supporting Wardrobe for Opportunity, which has over 200 active volunteers.

Clients of the Year Shining Examples of Wardrobe’s Work

Both models of a Wardrobe for Opportunity success story, this year’s Clients of the Year are Jesse Mendez and Victoria Choate. Mr. Mendez, a former convict, is a case manager at Allen Temple Training Academy where he works with clients from the California Department of Corrections to devise a plan to help them successfully re-enter society. He credits Wardrobe for Opportunity for their encouragement and says “the clothes they furnished me with were a great self esteem booster.” Ms. Choate is an

account manager with Lowe's, handling all aspects of account relations and client services for the company's Vendor Relationship department. Ms. Choate says that Wardrobe for Opportunity gave her the "shining armor" for the battlefield and helped her "launch a transformation internally that sparked excitement and drive."

Silent Auction and Raffle are Major Attraction to Event

A highlight every year is the raffle and silent auction, where attendees bid on unique trips, special gift items and dazzling jewelry. This year's raffle includes a diamond necklace from Felicci & Co., his and hers watches from Tiffany & Co. and a necklace, bracelet and earring set from Lori Bonn Designs. The silent auction will feature dozens of special gifts, including European vacations, spa packages, wine gift baskets, jewelry and sports packages.

Guest speaking at this year's event will be Maxine Johnson, a former client of Wardrobe for Opportunity, a Pathways to Opportunity graduate and super success story. Maxine will be speaking of the change that Wardrobe for Opportunity made in her life. She is currently a paralegal at the Law Office of John L. Burris and attending law school at San Francisco Law School. The principal of the law firm at which she works, John Burris, will introduce her at the luncheon.

Instituted last year at the Wardrobe for Opportunity luncheon were a special Wardrobe for Opportunity anniversary charm bracelet and unique collector's charm. The bracelet and charm were created by Lori Bonn Designs, an Oakland-based jeweler who is a strong supporter and sponsor of the organization's events. Bonn originally designed the bracelet with one charm, a silver clothes wardrobe -- the logo for Wardrobe for Opportunity. Each year the organization adds a new Bonn-designed charm, which debuts and is for sale at the spring luncheon. Last year the charm was a silver shoe; this year new to the "Wardrobe" series is a silver purse. Each charm is designed exclusively for Wardrobe for Opportunity and represents an item that would be in a person's career closet.

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$80, of which \$54 is tax-deductible. To register for the event, please log onto the organization's website at <http://www.wardrobe.org/events.html> or call (510) 463-4100 ext. 11.

Financial sponsors include lead sponsor Chevron, major sponsors Bank of America, Bank of the West, Bay Area Development Company, EMC Corporation, Fremont Bank Foundation, Lincoln Financial Advisors, and Union Bank of California, and other sponsors Archer Norris, Bishop Ranch, Borel Private Bank & Trust Company, Broadway Plaza, Computers & Structures, Inc., Dome Construction Company, Hyperion, Mt. Diablo Business Women, Mt. Diablo National Bank, Stoneridge Shopping Center, Sybase, The Mechanics Bank, The PMI Foundation, and Wells Fargo. Media sponsors include Diablo Magazine, KKDV 92.1, and Bay Area BusinessWoman. In-kind sponsors include Felicci & Co., Pinnacle Printing, Pro Media Coach, Melinda Henning, and SWAG Productions.

If individuals or businesses are interested in sponsoring this high-profile event or donating items to the silent auction, they may contact Nicole Levine at (510) 463-4100 x10 or nlevine@wardrobe.org.

Wardrobe for Opportunity has grown significantly since its founding. In 2006, the organization served 1,712 women and men, and it has worked with over 13,000 low-income jobseekers since 1995.

About Wardrobe for Opportunity

Wardrobe for Opportunity is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization that provides professional clothing and career support to low-income jobseekers in the Bay Area. Our services provide jobseekers with the self-confidence, self-esteem, and skills to find employment and advance their careers. Working in partnership with over 100 community agencies, hundreds of clothing donors and 200 active volunteers, we are helping individuals build fulfilling and self-sufficient lives with unlimited possibilities for themselves and their families. To find out more about how you can get involved, contact Wardrobe for Opportunity at (510) 463-4100 or visit www.wardrobe.org.

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Media contact:

Nicole Levine, Executive Director
Wardrobe for Opportunity
(510) 463-4100 ext. 10
nlevine@wardrobe.org
<http://www.wardrobe.org>