



WARDROBE FOR OPPORTUNITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED TO BOARD FOR THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Tapped to provide model for closets nationally

OAKLAND, Calif., December 26, 2006 -- Nicole Levine, executive director for Wardrobe for Opportunity, the Oakland based non-profit organization that provides business clothing and career support to low-income jobseekers, was **tapped by The Women's Alliance to serve on their Board of Directors at their recent annual conference** held in Southern California November 16 – 18. The Women's Alliance is a national organization of independent community-based members who provide professional attire, career skills training and related services to low-income women seeking employment. Ms. Levine was asked to serve on the Board because of Wardrobe for Opportunity's innovative partnership programs that were initiated under her direction and the unique perspective she brings, having pioneered a variety of successful programs during her tenure with Wardrobe for Opportunity.

Ms. Levine has over ten years non-profit and for-profit community outreach experience and a demonstrated passion for helping people gain access to resources and develop self-esteem and dignity. Her first volunteer effort was at 15 years old when she helped manage a free clothes closet at the Bay Area Women's and Children's Resource Center in San Francisco's Tenderloin district.

Now at almost two years with Wardrobe for Opportunity she has initiated programs that are being recognized nationally by organizations such as The Women's Alliance. One such program is the Day of Pride. During each Day of Pride event Wardrobe for Opportunity clients are partnered with a for-profit company. Employees from the sponsoring company help clients choose appropriate interview clothes and then

assist them in becoming job- and interview-ready by holding a career building workshop, reviewing resumes and conducting mock interviews.

Most recently, a for-profit staffing company, Renoir Staffing Services, sponsored a Day of Pride at Wardrobe for Opportunity. Some of the clients will be going to Renoir Staffing Services for real interviews.

Another such example is the partnership that Wardrobe for Opportunity cemented with First Place and Target stores. First Place is an Oakland-based nonprofit organization supporting young adults in their transition from foster care to successful adulthood. Wardrobe for Opportunity outfitted four men and four women from First Place in business attire. Once dressed, human resources representatives from Target in San Leandro assisted the eight young adults in becoming job- and interview-ready by holding an interviewing workshop, reviewing resumes and doing mock interviews, with a purpose towards hiring one or more of the work-aged youths who had recently or were about to age out of foster care and transitioning to independent living.

“By partnering we can provide a far greater impact and can complete the circle by giving our clients additional skills to get into the job market,” said Ms. Levine. “I’m thrilled to be passing along our best practices to The Women’s Alliance so that clients of closets nationally can benefit, as our clients have.”

Wardrobe for Opportunity has grown significantly since its founding. In 2005, they served 1,654 women and men, and in total have served nearly 12,000 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 learn more about Wardrobe for Opportunity please visit www.wardrobe.org or call (510) 463-4100.

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