

NONPROFIT WHW CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY AND RAISES OVER \$225,000 DURING ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW APRIL 7

Event Proceeds to Benefit Programs for the Unemployed and Underemployed in Orange County

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIF. (April 11, 2018)—Nonprofit WHW, which provides the unemployed and underemployed the skills and resources they need to get and keep a good job, hosted 370 supporters, volunteers and community members to celebrate 25 iconic years of “empowering employment success” and raised more than \$225,000 during its Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Pasea Hotel & Spa in Huntington Beach, Calif. With the theme of “old Hollywood” style and elegance, the event featured silent and live auctions, a gourmet luncheon, an inspiring presentation from a WHW job seeker and a movie-inspired, “black and white” fashion show with fashions from WHW’s retail store, Deja New, which supports WHW with all income directly helping to provide services for WHW job seekers. Deja New is located within WHW’s new, expanded space in Irvine (2803 McGaw Avenue).

Live auction items included an Angels Baseball package of four field MVP tickets and VIP parking to a 2018 home game with four passes to view batting practice prior to the game; two suite tickets to the Shakira concert at the Honda Center on August 31, 2018 and two tickets to the Hall & Oates concert on May 6, 2018 with all-inclusive food and beverages for both events; a stay at a six-bedroom, six-bathroom private villa in Los Cabos in a private, gated community with a pool and spa for seven nights; and a Maserati weekend including three days and two nights use of a Maserati donated by Maserati of Newport Beach. The package also includes a two-night stay in an Island Room at the Fashion Island Hotel and a \$100 gift card to Five Crowns Restaurant in Corona del Mar.

The silent auction included 100 items such as a one-night stay at the Ritz Carlton Rancho Mirage and a two-night, ocean-view stay at Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Guests enjoyed an outdoor, ocean-view reception with martini drinks sponsored by Spa Girls Cocktails. Specialty cocktails included The Marilyn Monroe (Spa Girl Pear Vodka Martini Straight Up), The Cary Grant (Spa Girl Cucumber Vodka Martini Straight Up) and The Hollywood (Spa Girl Cucumber Vodka Martini with Lime Juice and Simple Syrup). Within the ballroom, a three-course lunch was served including a grilled iceberg wedge salad (cherry tomatoes, chives, bacon, gorgonzola and toasted walnut cream); broiled spring chicken and potato au gratin or vegan wild mushroom risotto with asparagus ragout for vegetarians; and panna cotta (shortbread cookie, vanilla panna cotta, mango-pineapple compote) for dessert.

The program was kicked off by the event chair Karen Conlon, WHW Board Chair Kyle Rowen and WHW CEO Janie Best. WHW client Kimberly Watson also spoke and shared her story. Watson was a stay-at-home mom in Irvine. Behind the scenes there was abuse and a lot of fear. When her husband found a new girlfriend, he ended their marriage and she has since been experiencing divorce proceedings. She looked for a job for a year as her house was being sold from under her. Her saving grace was the Quickbooks class she took at WHW. She was eventually hired because she knew Quickbooks. Watson shared her job is what keeps her going, thanks to WHW.

Since 1993, WHW has served over 90,000 job seekers with programs including Employment Readiness Workshops, Computer Training, Job Placement Assistance, Employment Retention Assistance and Professional Apparel. WHW has grown from providing 63 women with professional apparel to help prepare

them for interviews in 1993 to now serving more than 8,000 job seekers each year and empowering them to navigate a complex job search with a multitude of tools. WHW helps people get and keep good jobs including through educating job seekers on relevant social media strategies, elevator speeches, networking, mock interviews, informational interviews, Skype interviews, business cards, digital resumes, personal branding and marketing strategies that enable a candidate to clearly demonstrate the value they bring to an employer.

“WHW is absolutely thrilled that our annual luncheon and fashion show raised over \$225,000 to support the employment readiness programs offered at WHW!” said WHW CEO Janie Best. “Due to the generosity of many, many sponsors and donors, over 80% of WHW job seekers will get and keep a good job. And that’s the best part of the whole day.”

Event sponsors included Capital Group, 24 Hr Home Care, Antis Roofing and Waterproofing, The Bascom Group, First Bank, Neal Family Foundation, UPS, US Bank, and Wells Fargo.

The 2017 Luncheon and Fashion Show raised \$197,000 to support WHW’s programs for job seekers.

At WHW, 91 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to programs and services, more than 80% of job seekers obtain a job within three months and 90% of those keep that job, which increases their household income by over 300%.

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About WHW

WHW is a nonprofit organization which provides the unemployed and underemployed the skills and resources they need to get and keep a good job. Since 1993, WHW has served over 90,000 job seekers referred by over 275 partner agencies at no charge. Each year thousands of job seekers participate in programs focused on making them the most marketable candidate for the job they seek. Programs include Employment Readiness Workshops, Computer Training, Job Placement Assistance, Employment Retention Assistance and Professional Apparel. In 2018, WHW is celebrating its 25th anniversary. For more information on WHW, please visit www.whw.org.

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