

NONPROFIT WHW RAISES OVER \$200,000 DURING WILD, WILD WEST ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW APRIL 27th

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

NEWPORT BEACH, CA (April 27, 2019) – Nonprofit WHW, which provides the unemployed and underemployed the skills and resources they need to get and keep a good job, hosted 275 supporters, volunteers and community members to empower employment success and raised more than \$200,000 during its Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach, California. With the theme of the “old west,” the event featured silent and live auctions, a gourmet luncheon, an inspiring presentation from a WHW job seeker and a western-inspired 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 the WHW Client Services space in Irvine (2803 McGaw Avenue).

Live auction items included two tickets to the Backstreet Boys DNA Concert at the Honda Center, a two-night stay at The New York Edition in Midtown New York including air travel, a seven-night holiday trip to Las Vegas and an elegant dinner for 10 at the historic Wilcox Manor in old town Tustin. Also included was a three-night stay in a Palm Valley Country Club home combined with 4 rounds of golf at the Mission Hills Country Club and 4 rounds of golf at the Indian Wells Golf Resort.

The silent auction included over 80 items such as a one-night stay and breakfast at the Balboa Bay Resort, a one-night stay at the Hyatt Regency in Huntington Beach and Guided Wine Tasting Experience for up to 18 guests.

Guests enjoyed event décor provided and underwritten by Freeman and a reception with martini drinks underwritten by Spa Girls Cocktails. Specialty martinis included The Miss Kitty (Spa Girl Pear Vodka Martini Straight Up), The Marshal Dillon (Spa Girl Cucumber Vodka Martini Straight Up) and The Gunsmoke (Spa Girl Cucumber Vodka Martini with Lime Juice and Simple Syrup). Within the ballroom, a three-course lunch was served including a Southwest Baby Iceberg Wedge salad (campfire charred corn, queso fresco, baby tomatoes, fried tortilla, chipotle buttermilk dressing); Achiote Grilled Airline Chicken Breast, Anson Mills White Cheddar Grits, Roasted Baby Carrots, Fried Onion Rings, Tomato Cream Sauce or Stuffed Piquillo Peppers for vegetarians; and S'Mores Tart (graham cracker, chocolate mousse, toasted marshmallow) for dessert.

The program was kicked off by the WHW Board Chair, Kyle Rowen and WHW CEO, Janie Best. WHW client, Annette DiMaggio also spoke and shared her story. DiMaggio was a single mom of three children in Orange County when she received the skype call from her manager informing her that her position had been eliminated. Being without a job terrified Annette as it did her children, who wondered if they would end up homeless. It was a WHW Volunteer, who Annette met by happenstance, who referred her to the agency. Annette credits the training and support she received from WHW with helping her land her new job, which was a better job than she had before. “I could not have done this on my own,” shared Annette.

Since 1993, WHW has served over 100,000 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 10,000 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 effective resume development, 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.

Event sponsors included Capital Group, Ernst and Young, First Bank, Miracle Mile Advisors, Neal Family Foundation, Stephanie Shields of Thrivent Financial, The Bascom Group, UPS, US Bank and Wells Fargo.

“WHW’s Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show is always a fun event!” said WHW CEO Janie Best. “But unemployment is not fun and that is the reason we come together. The funds raised will help men and women from all backgrounds to get and keep good jobs and good jobs change everything...not just for the job seekers, but for their family and for our entire community.”

At WHW, 90 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to programs and almost 80% of job seekers obtain a job within 90 days, increasing their average household income by over 560%.

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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 100,000 job seekers at no charge, many of whom were referred by over 275 partner agencies. Each year thousands of job seekers participate in WHW 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 2019, WHW is celebrating serving over 100,000 job seekers in Orange County. For more information on WHW, please visit www.whw.org.

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