

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 26, 2012

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2012 Employment Leader Awards Gala Celebrated the Gift of Employment

Santa Ana, California (April 26, 2012) - On Saturday, April 21st, almost 200 WHW (Women Helping Women /Men2Work) supporters and friends gathered at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel and Spa to honor those who promote employment success in Orange County and to support those who struggle to obtain it. Honorary Chair, Christine Walker, Vice President of Farmers & Merchants Trust Company, Gala Chair, Marcia Evans, Vice President and Branch Manager of Farmers & Merchants Bank in Tustin and WHW Board President, Katherine Hughes of Albrecht Barney hosted the black tie optional event that included cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner and dancing.



Mari Kurtz, President of Cal Pac Sheet Metal, Inc. and OC Metals, Trina Norman, Anaheim Package Manager of United Parcel Service and Kristin Byrnes, CEO and President of Project Access received the Employment Leader Awards of 2012. The award was created to honor outstanding people in corporations, nonprofit organizations and academia who have made a substantial impact on employment success in Orange County.



WHW client, Anthony, shared the story of his journey to employment success. Anthony recounted his release from prison, his introduction to WHW and how WHW prepared him to successfully enter the workforce, sometimes making guest laugh and sometimes sigh. "When I shared my story with the WHW Board of Directors on the 12th floor of a high rise building, it was the highest I had ever been without drugs." Anthony who is now employed, self-sufficient and sharing his story to inspire others was wearing his "lucky tie," the one he received from WHW.

At the center of each table was an exquisitely wrapped present representing the gift of employment that WHW supporters give to disadvantaged job seekers and one chair at each table was wrapped with a sash representing the one in eight Orange County citizens who continue to be out of work. The event raised almost \$80,000 to support the programs of WHW (Women Helping Women/Men2Work), where over 25,000 clients have been served with critical employment support services since 1993 all at no charge and with no obligation.

Photos of the event taken by Michael Brown and Derek Fleming can be found at <http://www.whw.org/events/event-photo-gallery>

About WHW (Women Helping Women/Men2Work). WHW is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to provide comprehensive employment support services to empower disadvantaged men, women and teens to achieve economic self sufficiency through employment success and who has served over 25,000 clients since 1993. WHW's Employment Success Program includes resume and interviewing skills, workshops, computer classes, job placement, image consulting and professional clothing appropriate for interviews. Supported by United Way, WHW's services are always at no charge or obligation to clients and referring non-profit partners. For more information on WHW and its Employment Success Program, go to www.whw.org.

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