

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Financial Contributors Contemplate the Return on their Investment in Empowering Challenged Job Seekers**

Santa Ana, California (Tuesday, April 2, 2013) – In 2008, Jane Halsey, a volunteer and financial supporter of WHW (Women Helping Women/Men2Work) had the idea of making a direct financial investment in empowering a challenged job seeker’s journey to self sufficiency. At the time WHW’s Employment Success Program, which consisted of Job Readiness Workshops, one-on-one Job Placement Assistance, Computer Training and two complete Interview appropriate outfits including shoes, accessories, hygiene items and a coupon for a haircut, cost the organization \$259 to provide to clients at no charge. So Jane started Club 259.

Club 259 is WHW’s membership organization for donors who want to directly support a low-income job seeker in their search for employment by donating \$259 to support a client’s journey through the unique employment acquisition program. Since 2008, Club 259 has raised over \$130,000 supporting over 500 clients. And there are twenty Club 259 members, including founder Jane Halsey, who through the years have supported almost 100 of those clients.



Lauri Batterman, Marcia Evans, Rickye Lamm and Susan Montoya have been members of Club 259 every year since 2008. “Seeing firsthand how my contribution has helped someone in need is priceless. \$259 is a small investment to empower someone to reach their full potential,” said Susan Montoya of First Bank.

Margaret Nerio, EMS Development Company and Sherri Wiseman together have supported 20 clients. So have Mark Bregman, Patti Davis, Susie McCollom, Dominick Esposito, Laurie Rowen and Michelle Chen. “Supporting WHW financially was an easy decision to make. Beyond the practical reason of helping individuals achieve employment success being a smart choice to make a real difference in our community, it was also an emotional decision to give back as a thank you for the many wonderful mentors I have had in my life,” said Michelle Chen, a long time volunteer and financial supporter of WHW.

Some newer members of Club 259 Erin Leach, Angela Cortright, Robyn Williams, Janet Cronick and Tonya Cocking see the impact of their contribution expanding beyond the job seeker. Tonya Cocking who sits on WHW's Board of Directors believes the impact of her \$259 is significant. "Getting our clients back into the workforce returns on the investment many fold. Many of our clients have children and other family members that are dependent on them. So, by helping one person get a job, it helps a whole family get back on their feet."

Lila Klein who has been a Club 259 member since 2009 sums it up this way, "If \$259 can help one person return to a life of productiveness and security, the return on investment is incalculable."

**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 30,000 clients since 1993. WHW's 20 year Employment Success Program includes resume and interviewing skills, workshops, computer classes, job placement, image consulting, professional clothing appropriate for interviews and transportation services. Supported by over 1000 volunteers and 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](http://www.whw.org).

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