



Career Closet of NCJW Moves to Livingston

Hundreds of Women in Need Can Obtain Free Business-Appropriate Clothes

– Grand-Opening Ribbon-Cutting Draws Local Officials –

Livingston, N.J., February 15, 2012 – At a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local and county officials, the Linda and Rudy Slucker NCJW Center of Women (CFW) celebrated the grand opening today of its Career Closet, a service for women who need business-appropriate clothing to jump-start their personal economic recovery, at **349 East Northfield Road, Livingston, New Jersey.**

Launched 10 years ago, Career Closet of NCJW provides – free of charge – new or like-new business-appropriate clothing and accessories to women in need. Each client works with a Career Closet personal shopper, who helps assemble an in-style, mix-and-match starter wardrobe from among the large inventory of skirts, blouses, suits, pants, shoes, handbags, and other items. Since the program's inception, thousands of women have been able to go on job interviews and start new jobs looking polished and professional in their Career Closet wardrobe.

“Career Closet of NCJW is a win-win for so many women in our community,” said Jill Sorkin Johnson, President, NCJW/Essex. “Dressed appropriately, with an in-style business outfit, women feel confident walking into job interviews or starting a new job. In addition, women in the community who are hanging on to no-longer-needed, new or like-new interview clothes now have a convenient place to donate and know it will be put to good use by other local women.” Previously, Career Closet operated successfully in Montclair through the generosity of St. James Episcopal Church, which donated space for the program in its lower level. However, as a result of Hurricane Irene in the fall of 2011, Career Closet had to suspend, and eventually move, its operation.

“I am delighted that Livingston is the new home to Career Closet of NCJW,” said Stephen A. Santola, Mayor, Township of Livingston, who was on hand for the ribbon-cutting. “Career Closet exemplifies how neighbors can help neighbors and is a wonderful, positive addition to our Livingston neighborhood.”

“Career Closet is the only service of this kind in Essex County and is now so easily accessible to so many women by bus or by car,” said Patricia Sebold, Essex County Freeholder, at the event.

The move to Livingston was made possible, in part, by Paul V. Profeta and Associates, Inc., the owner of the office building where Career Closet is renting space, which provided an easily accessible, bright, welcoming place for our clients to come.

“We are thrilled to be able to lease space to Career Closet of NCJW at a rate that allows the program to operate in Livingston,” said Paul V. Profeta, president and owner of Paul V. Profeta

and Associates, Inc. "We are always supportive of nonprofit organizations that promote economic independence, and Career Closet is one such program that provides what is often the key factor in helping women support themselves and their families."

What do you wear to a job interview?

For thousands of women in New Jersey, the answer is 'nothing' because they don't have and can't afford to buy the right attire. Unable to interview for office positions, these women continue to struggle in low-paying jobs with no career path and little chance for advancement. Often they remain unemployed because they do not have the resources to dress themselves for an interview.

Realizing that the right clothes can change the course of a woman's life, the Linda and Rudy Slucker NCJW Center for Women offers Career Closet as one component in an array of job and career services. Among those are:

Job Readiness for Displaced Homemakers, which helps women who need to enter the workforce due to death or disability of a spouse, divorce, separation, or spouse's military deployment. All services in our Job Readiness program are free of charge.

Career Quest for any women who is contemplating a career change or seeking to go back to work after an extended hiatus and needs assistance with goal-setting, career-planning, resume writing, and other skills.

Computer Classes just for women, which are small-group sessions for all skill levels.

RISE Institute (Reaching Into Self Empowerment), for women who need assistance in setting and attaining goals.

Career Closet Clients and Donors

Career Closet of NCJW serves clients, by appointment only, who have obtained a voucher from the Center for Women or one of our more than 50 approved agencies. For more information on how to become a client of Career Closet of NCJW or an approved agency, please call the Linda and Rudy Slucker NCJW Center for Women at 973.994.4994.

For more information on how to donate new or like-new business-appropriate clothes and accessories to Career Closet of NCJW, visit http://ncjwessex.org/career_closet.html or call 973.994.4994.

The Linda & Rudy Slucker NCJW Center for Women is a nonsectarian service-provider sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section. CFW provides a variety of support groups for women and children, dating-abuse prevention and awareness for teens, and skills training for women re-entering the workforce. CFW is a grantee of the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women.

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