

BOTTOMLESS CLOSET

connecting women and work

FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER

20,000 New York City Women Served!

Since Bottomless Closet opened its doors in 1999 we have served over 20,000 New York City Women! Ionasia was referred to Bottomless Closet by the Salvation Army before her job interview in the Health Care field. She is the mother of three and moved to New York from North Carolina because of the scarcity of jobs there. She continues to search for work and found her experience at Bottomless Closet prepared her for the job search. Join us as we wish Ionasia the best in her job search!



Watch Ionasia's appointment at Facebook.com/BottomlessClosetNYC

Ionasia's is just one story of the thousands of NYC women who are struggling to get back on their feet to secure gainful employment and ultimately reach self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. While the economy continues to slowly improve, many of Bottomless Closet's clients struggle to find employment. Many of the jobs that have been created and are available in the marketplace are entry level, low wage, temporary jobs in industries like food service or retail that offer little to no benefits. At Bottomless Closet we have observed an increase in commission-based positions. In addition, our follow up with clients has revealed a significant drop in the number of women who have secured a job following their visit to Bottomless Closet (42% in 2012 vs 62% in 2011). In a *Daily Finance* report, Morgan House states "five years after the recession began, there are few reasonable scenarios in which we will see a normal, healthy unemployment rate within the next two years. The longer people remain out of work, the harder it is for them to re-enter the labor market, making this mess all the more dire."

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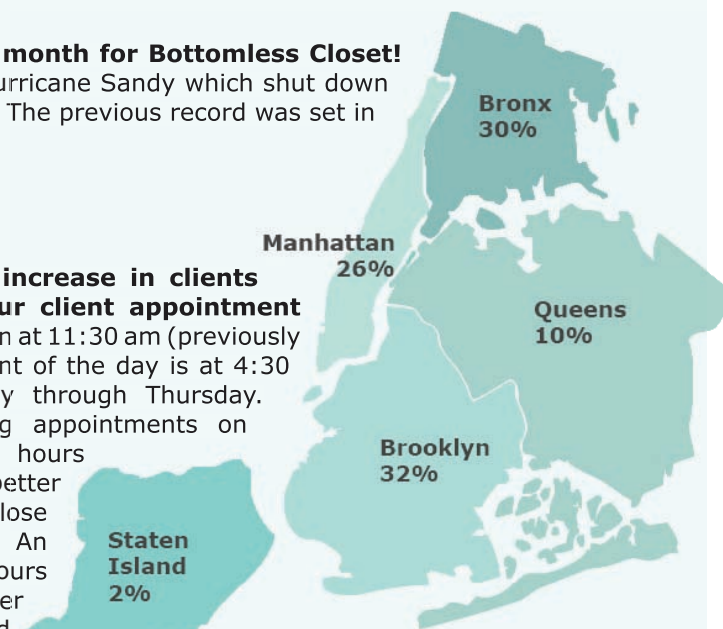
Meanwhile the numbers of women who are in need of Bottomless Closet's services and programming continues to grow...

BREAKING RECORDS!

October was a record breaking month for Bottomless Closet! 315 clients were seen in spite of Hurricane Sandy which shut down our office for three days in October. The previous record was set in May 2011 with 301 clients served.

AN EXPANSION OF RESOURCES

In order to accommodate the increase in clients Bottomless Closet expanded our client appointment schedule. Client appointments begin at 11:30 am (previously 12:30 pm) and the last appointment of the day is at 4:30 pm (previously 3:30 pm) Monday through Thursday. We continue to schedule evening appointments on Tuesday evenings. Our expanded hours of operation will ensure we are better able to serve more NYC women – close to 50 additional women per week! An extension of client appointment hours also means an expansion in volunteer hours. Bottomless Closet introduced two shifts for daytime volunteers: AM shift, from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm and PM shift, from 2:00 to 5:30 pm.



Bottomless Closet Clients Served (by Borough)

Bottomless Closet has been busy with workshops and events:

20 Bottomless Closet clients participated in a workshop and conference sponsored by **Count Me in and Make Mine a Million** held at Barnard College in July. The program is designed to help women entrepreneurs grow their business to \$1 Million and beyond.

Bottomless Closet was fortunate to benefit from several in-store retail events:

- **Saks 5th Avenue** (sponsored by JP Morgan's Women's affiliation group)
- **Ted Baker** (flagship)
- **Theory** (hosted by Bottomless Closet's YLC)



For more pictures go to Facebook.com/RealFashionRealWomen

Derek Warburton, Bottomless Closet volunteer, held **The Real Fashion Real Women Runway Show** in conjunction with NY Fashion Week. Bottomless Closet clients strutted their stuff in designer fashions straight off the catwalk.

LUNCH AND LEARNS

Bottomless Closet would be nothing without our dedicated volunteers! As such we are committed to the on-going support and education of our volunteers to ensure that we are providing our clients with the highest level of service. This fall Bottomless Closet continued our Lunch and Learns Series with topics including: The Code of Conduct for all clients, volunteers and visitors to Bottomless Closet; new coaching and interview preparation procedures for our clients; as well as share time for volunteers to discuss what they like best about volunteering. In the New Year Bottomless Closet will hold monthly Lunch and Learns in order to offer even more opportunities to support our volunteers.



AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

On October 16th Bottomless Closet's Young Leadership Council hosted An Evening Under the Stars at Astra.



Close to 150 guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while bidding on a silent auction and feverishly participating in a new Live Auction and Giving Tree with Christie's auctioneer, Brian McComack.



Spearheaded by Steffanie Levin, Event Chair, the event raised close to \$70,000 to support the programming of Bottomless Closet. Thank you to all of the auction donors, winners and attendees!

Donate your new or gently worn professional clothing and accessories! Handbags, shoes, and accessories are especially needed as we strive to provide each pre-interview client with complete outfits from head to toe. Visit bottomlessclosetnyc.org/clothingdonations for donation guidelines.



Like us on Facebook!
BottomlessClosetNYC



Follow us on Twitter!
BttmlessClstNYC

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

Corporate Volunteer Groups are an integral part of Bottomless Closet. Groups shadow client appointments (dressing women and assisting with coaching for upcoming interviews) and help manage the boutique and inventory space. A big THANK YOU to the following:



Watch the Con Edison volunteer video at [Youtube.com/ConEdisonNY](https://www.youtube.com/ConEdisonNY)



SAP Volunteers



Moody's Volunteers

Bottomless Closet held our Semi Annual Sale. The following groups helped make it happen by donating woman (and man) power to set up, staff, and clean up after the event:



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CLOTHING DRIVES

Bottomless Closet distributes over 50,000 garments a year to NYC women. This is made possible in part by clothing drives from the East Side Neighborhood Association, St. Thomas Moore and the following groups:



The New York Times



SUNGARD[®]



UPCOMING CORPORATE VOLUNTEER GROUPS, CLOTHING DRIVES AND EVENTS

