

BOTTOMLESS CLOSET

connecting women and work

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2012

Work it, girl!



Real Women on the Runway

Bottomless Closet proved giving back in NYC can be hip, cool and fun for the younger generation. On Tuesday, June 12, well-dressed young professionals sipped “Bottomless” cocktails at *The Park* restaurant in Chelsea, while they learned about the important service Bottomless Closet provides. **The Real Women on the Runway Fashion Show and Cocktail Party** is a first introduction to the organization for many. Thirteen models, who are also Bottomless Closet clients, strutted their stuff on the red carpet dressed in looks provided by *Jones, Macy’s, TJ Maxx, Eileen Fisher and American Apparel Inc.* Emcee WNBC’s *Lauren Scala* got the crowd going, cheering on the “real women” as they posed.

Fashion Show Co-Chair *Kristin Donnelly* said sending clients down the red carpet serves another purpose. “The clients look fabulous, but it takes real confidence. If they can walk down the runway, you know these ladies can walk into an interview with their heads held high and a firm handshake.” Other major sponsors include designer *Nicole Miller, Skyy Vodka, Brooklyn Brewery and HBO.*



President

Sara T. Slocum

Chair

Dianne Kenney

Senior Vice President

Arlyn S. Gardner

Vice President

Iris Abrons

Treasurer

Tami Peter

Secretary

Judith T. Hunt

Chair Emeritae

Reva Wurtzburger*

Sheila Lambert*

Board of Directors

Priscilla Bijur

Christine Chang

Laura Conigliaro

Karen Heath-Wade

Andrea Hoinacki

Carolyn Huggins*

Kathleen Jordan

Pam Kaufman

Steffanie Levin

Rhonda Medina

Saumil Shukla

Barbara Madsen Smith

Katherine Elvin Watkin

Emerita

Cynthia Gaston*

Jeanne Sigler*

Elizabeth Tighe*

* Founder

Bottomless Closet Staff**Executive Director**

Kendall Farrell

Program Director

Patrycja Warda

Operations Director

Gineyda Diaz

Director of Volunteerism and Partnerships

Jessica Land

Client Services Coordinator

Lakiesha Johnson

Bookkeeper

Stanley Robbins

Administrative Associate

Jasmine Rivera

Program Associate

Susan Monk

Editing, Layout, Design and Photography:

Gineyda Diaz

Kristin Donnelly

Robertta Dougherty

Steffanie Levin

Sara T. Slocum

Peggy Stinchfield

Bottomless Closet

15 Penn Plaza

at The Hotel Pennsylvania

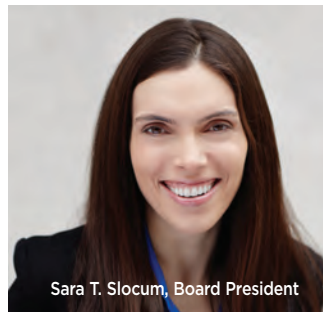
Level B, Suite 40

New York, NY 10001

p. 212.563.2499 f. 646.355.0176

www.bottomlessclosetnyc.org

A letter from the President



Sara T. Slocum, Board President

Bottomless Closet continues to make real progress supporting disadvantaged New York City women as they work toward self-sufficiency. While you may be aware of the comprehensive one-on-one attention our clients get from volunteers during their appointments, and our rigorous and informative workshops, you might not be aware of the extent of the other work that Bottomless Closet does to support our mission.

Over the course of each year, Bottomless Closet holds many events and fundraisers to raise awareness, cultivate new volunteers and corporate partners, and to continue to serve the nearly 3,000 women who will walk through our doors this year.

On October 16th, I look forward to seeing you at An Evening Under the Stars at Astra, an event space atop the D&D building. This popular event, being presented for the 7th year in a row, is a terrific opportunity to support the work Bottomless Closet does, while enjoying an incredible view, a silent auction and wonderful food, drink and atmosphere.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of Bottomless Closet,



Bottomless Closet hits New York Fashion Week!



Volunteer **Derek Warburton** featured close to a dozen Bottomless Closet clients as they strutted their stuff down the runway at a New York Fashion Week fashion show in February. Held at the posh Empire Hotel,

clients wore designs donated by **Nicole Miller** and **Betsey Johnson**, just to name a few. The event created lots of press including the coveted Page Six in the New York Post and a portion of the proceeds benefitted Bottomless Closet.



International Women's Day



Bottomless Closet celebrated International Women's Day for the second year in a row with Compass Box Whiskey and the wonderful ladies of LUPEC (Ladies United for the Preservation of Endangered Cocktails). A lively group gathered at Lani Kai in SoHo for spirits along with a raffle and a live auction led by impromptu



auctioneer **Kendall Farrell**, Bottomless Closet's Executive Director! The event raised close to \$2,000 to support the women of Bottomless Closet!

Young Leadership Council—Our Events and Programs



In addition to the many awareness and fundraising events that the Young Leadership Council hosts, the YLC also sponsors workshops, where members lead programs designed to

fit into Bottomless Closet's professional development series. One of the most popular is the **Annual Job Fair series**.

This two-part workshop, lead by volunteer **Andrea Wobensmith**, is designed to give Bottomless Closet clients a chance to practice and master the skills they need as they attend job fairs. The first part of the series, held at the offices of Bottomless Closet, focuses on preparation. Using their resumes and experience as guides, the clients work on their "infomercial"—how to present themselves professionally and succinctly in the busy and intense atmosphere of a fair.

Held off-site in a space generously donated by Meridian Audio LTD, part two re-created an actual fair. YLC volunteers staffed different tables, which represented popular industries typically found at fairs. Clients had the opportunity to visit each station and practice the skills they learned. It was a way to experience a job fair before the real event. Each client received a detailed checklist on her pitch from the professional volunteers who staffed the event. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive as clients talked about how their new-found skills and confidence

would serve them well.

It was another successful evening, and there was a lot of enthusiasm for a repeat performance next year.

Shoes in the City. This year's event on February 7th at **Dylan's Candy Bar** was one of the most successful we've ever had. We introduced dozens of new friends to Bottomless Closet and it's mission. Since then we've received many requests from individuals who want to get involved, and a few new volunteers have already stepped forward. We can't wait for next year!

Tahari. Bottomless Closet and **Elie Tahari** partnered once again for a fashion-forward and fun-filled event on April 3 at the Tahari store on Fifth Avenue. This semi-annual get-together draws a



wonderful crowd, eager to update their wardrobes while supporting our clients. Guests brought a donation for the clients and received a 30 percent discount on their purchases in return. Bottomless Closet received close to \$1000 as a result of the evening's sales. Thanks to everyone at Elie Tahari for their continued support!



Our Annual Luncheon (continued on p4)

The 500 attendees at **Bottomless Closet's Annual Spring Luncheon** weren't planning on a work-out, but they were brought to their feet on three different occasions by a program that moved and inspired.



Luncheon veteran, emcee **Perri Peltz** guided the program masterfully. Honoree **Edith Cooper**, Managing Director and Global Head of Human Capitol Management at **Goldman Sachs**, gushed over how impressed she was with Bottomless Closet's

clients. Keynote speaker **Magda Yrizarry** was the recipient of a standing ovation. As Chief Diversity Officer and Vice-President of Talent Management at Verizon Communications she spoke about being a first generation American and shedding stereotypical labels. As always, the clients were the stars. To say client's Donna and Taquia brought the house down was an understatement.

They both won over the audience with their heartwarming and inspirational stories. Donna drew a another standing ovation and described how she wore a Bottomless Closet suit as she lobbied lawmakers in Albany on a bill condemning domestic violence.



(Luncheon continued)



Board President **Sara Slocum** echoed the overarching theme of the afternoon. Bottomless Closet empowers New York City women to be better. It gives them the confidence to stand up straighter, the skills to land a job and the drive to find an even better job.

The luncheon was a huge success, raising over \$500,000 to help New York City women on their journey toward self-sufficiency!



Save the Date!

Save the Date and Donations!

The YLC is gearing up for our annual cocktail party on October 16th 2012 at Astra in the D&D building!

We need donations for our silent auction—handbags, jewelry, tickets, experiences etc. Please email Steffanie Levin at floyd47@mac.com with questions.

Can't get enough of Bottomless Closet?

Sign up for weekly emails with all the latest news.

Email Jessica Land at jland@bottomlessclosetnyc.org to register.

Check out our website www.bottomlessclosetnyc.org and visit

us on Facebook 

Opt out of paper?

Please send us your email address at

gdiaz@bottomlessclosetnyc.org

**BOTTOMLESS
CLOSET**

connecting
women and
work

**15 Penn Plaza
at The Hotel Pennsylvania
Level B, Suite 40
New York, NY 10001**

The mission of Bottomless Closet is to help disadvantaged New York City women become self-sufficient through a comprehensive program that begins with business attire and interview preparation and continues with professional development, financial management and personal enrichment. Using the model of women helping women and our network of dedicated volunteers, Bottomless Closet enhances our clients' self-esteem and self-confidence in order for them to enter and succeed in the workforce and improve the quality of their lives.