



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to the warm welcome that I received earlier this year, after six months at Bottomless Closet,

I already feel passionately connected to not only the mission, but all of the individuals involved with the organization — from the terrific staff, to the committed supporters and donors, to the dedicated volunteers and the inspiring clients. I've seen how hard everyone works to achieve positive outcomes.

The special people attached to our organization are what makes it so unique. As you will read, it's been a busy few months of getting to know the organization and the important folks who make it shine. I have realigned our staffing to prioritize volunteers as an invaluable core component of our programs.

Another focus has been to renew long standing relationships and to raise awareness of our good work through several new corporate partnerships. In this issue, we highlight just a few of those new partnerships that are bringing added benefits to Bottomless Closet. iPass is giving our clients Wi-Fi service to assist them with their job searches. Amalgamated Bank is helping our clients create foundations for their own financial freedom. Lyft is offering a way for both you and the organization to benefit from the rides that you take with them. There is something everyone can do to keep Bottomless Closet growing.

Finally, I hope you will be inspired after learning how the sons of Lillian Vernon decided to honor her memory after being introduced to Bottomless Closet and reading about a client who benefited from their generosity.

I hope you will do your part to help us get on the radars of more influencers by sharing this newsletter with a friend or colleague. The more people who know about the work we do, the more opportunities we can create for women in need in New York City. I hope you enjoy the latest newsletter. Your feedback is always appreciated.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Melissa

AN INSPIRING LEGACY

In 1951 at the age of 24, Lillian Vernon started a company out of her Mount Vernon, NY apartment. Initially selling personalized purses and belts, the brand grew to include a catalog that featured over 120 pages of gifts and accessories. From there, the Lillian Vernon brand was born. The catalog, which you may be familiar with, became a quintessential part of the American woman's shopping experience. In 1987, the Lillian Vernon Corporation became the first company founded by a woman to be publicly traded on the American Stock Market.

After Lillian's death, her children David and Fred Hochberg wanted to ensure that their mother's legacy was one that continued to give women joy and a sense of empowerment. Inspired after hearing some of our clients' stories at our annual luncheon, they decided to donate her wardrobe to Bottomless Closet. What better way is there to honor her memory than to donate the late icon's clothing to an organization that is committed to empowering women on their journeys to success?

We have begun distributing the generous donation to clients going on job interviews and starting work! Bottomless Closet is honored to be the recipient of such a wonderful donation.



Please visit our website for more pictures of the items from the donation.

Did you know that last year Bottomless Closet provided 13,202 items of clothing and 7,852 accessories to our clients?

A CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE



It is serendipitous that Jo-Ann, pictured here and above, was one of the first clients to receive a Lillian Vernon suit, as she personifies Ms. Vernon's spirit of empowerment and perseverance.

Jo-Ann first came to Bottomless Closet in 2008 after being laid off for 18 months. She got a job soon after her appointment and in the eight years she has been employed, she has been promoted four times! She says that Bottomless Closet treated her like she was "high class" and made her feel important, showing her that she could succeed. Since her initial visit to Bottomless Closet, Jo-Ann took part in our Financial Management series and now owns her own home and all of her bills are paid.

Jo-Ann is a resilient woman who at the age of 50 got her GED and four years later graduated college along with her granddaughter. She says "the only good thing about me going on public assistance was finding Bottomless Closet."

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT: BANKING RESOURCES THROUGH AMALGAMATED BANK

Funded by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in 1923, Amalgamated Bank was New York City's first labor bank. Today, the bank has 14 NYC branches, a third of them in NYC's Banking Development Districts (underserved areas with a need for banking services). Amalgamated Bank is attempting to broaden New Yorkers' access to banking and wants to reach the un- and under-banked. As part of our new relationship with Amalgamated, all Bottomless Closet clients will be able to receive free checking accounts. Plus, they will have access to account representatives that will help guide them through the banking system.

In September, Amalgamated employees at the Midtown Manhattan location also led an introductory Banking 101 workshop at the branch to help our clients decipher bank fees, understand interest, and learn about banking features such as mobile deposit, which can remove the need to visit a distant bank branch and break the reliance on fee-heavy check cashing services and establish personal credit.

Contact mnorden@bottomlessclosetnyc.org to connect your company as a corporate partner.



Our corporate partners have donated over 775 volunteer hours in the last year.

Read more about this and other ways to support Bottomless Closet at bottomlessclosetnyc.org/donate/other-support

VOLUNTEER AND OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT CHANGES

This summer, the volunteer department was absorbed into the program department headed by our Program Director, Patrycja Warda. Our former Office Coordinator, Valentine Louis, was named Volunteer Coordinator in July and is now working to ensure that all of our dedicated volunteers are scheduled appropriately.

With the vacancy left by Valentine, the search for a new Office Coordinator led us to Gretchen Simmons. Gretchen first came to Bottomless Closet in 2008 as a client and then as an evening volunteer in 2014. Gretchen has been so connected with Bottomless Closet that she jumped at the notion of joining our team full time.

Gretchen has over 20 years of professional experience in Office Administration with an emphasis on human resources, employee relations and team building. Gretchen will be supporting our Operations Department including vendor relations and overall office management.

Learn more about our staff at bottomlessclosetnyc.org/about/who-we-are/staff

CLIENTS GET FREE WI-FI ACCESS

Access to information and services on the internet can be critical for our clients' job searches. iPass is offering our clients 90 days of free, unlimited Wi-Fi access until June of 2017. iPass is the world's largest Wi-Fi network, offering simple, secure Wi-Fi access on any device.

Sadie, a Bottomless Closet client, said that having Wi-Fi "would mean not having to go over my 1GB data cap per month. It would allow me to search and respond to opportunities in real time instead of waiting until I got home to use a computer."

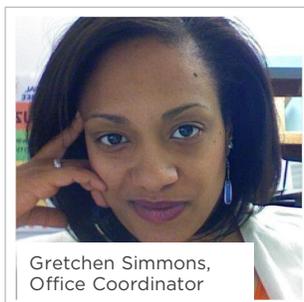
Another client, Patricia said that "It's very important because I need a better paying job with room to grow and having internet would allow me to apply for jobs online."

Over 3,000 clients will receive this service by 2017.

Read the press release at bottomlessclosetnyc.org/news-events/news-articles



Valentine Louis,
Volunteer Coordinator



Gretchen Simmons,
Office Coordinator



GET A LYFT & GIVE BACK

Travel in style and help Bottomless Closet when you use the Lyft App and the discount code: **Bottomless**. You'll get a \$50 credit to use toward your first 5 rides and \$10 per ride will be donated by Lyft to Bottomless Closet. Win/Win!

CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR!

Save the date for our Annual Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

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