



## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am very excited to see what 2017 has in store for Bottomless Closet.

As you probably already know, 2016 was our best year yet, during which **we experienced a 15% increase in client interactions!** This year, I am hoping we can make history again – something we would never be able to do without our dedicated staff, board, volunteers, supporters, corporate partners and our strong network of referral partners.

We just celebrated our **18th birthday** last month, and it was amazing to look back at how far the organization has come. And yet, as Bottomless Closet continues to flourish, our core mission and the kind of one-on-one support we provide to our clients remains the same. It's a testament to the dedicated people who come here each day, providing attention and compassion to women who need it the most.

As we look forward to spring, the warmer weather and of course **spring cleaning**, I am hoping Bottomless Closet will be the first choice for anyone looking to clean out their closets and give back at the same time. We also have some great events coming up in March that we hope you'll join us for, and of course our **Annual Spring Luncheon** is right around the corner in May. **Visit our website at [bottomlessclosetnyc.org](http://bottomlessclosetnyc.org) for details on honorees, speakers and how to purchase tickets.**

Thank you for all that you do to make a difference in the lives of the women that we serve!

Best,

Melissa Norden

## CELEBRATING OUR CLIENTS



In a **special graduation ceremony** in early December, certificates of achievement were presented to 13 clients for completing the workshops offered by Bottomless Closet (eight clients completed the Professional Development Series, while five completed the Financial Management Series). The event was generously

hosted by the **InterContinental New York Barclay Hotel** in Midtown and was well attended by both current and former clients, as well as volunteers and staff who cheered on our graduates.

This is a great achievement that sometimes takes years to accomplish. Clients who succeed in attaining this milestone sometimes do so while attending school, working or caring for their children full-time.



Also honored were two clients who have used the lessons learned in the workshop series and applied them to their lives. The **Financial Independence Award** was presented to Jo-Ann for paying off her debt using the lessons learned in the Financial Management Series. Elisa, pictured below, was presented with the **Moving Up Award** for having achieved great success in her professional career.



## A MODEL EMPLOYEE

Elisa has been a Bottomless Closet client since 2013 and participated in the Job Club. She completed both the Professional Development and Financial Management Series.

In 2015, Elisa started working at Lincoln Medical Center as Director of the Grants Department, where she manages 15 government service grants totaling \$5.4 million. In the summer of 2016, Elisa's supervisor asked her to update and modify the department's existing Policy and Procedures manual. At the Accreditation Regulatory Compliance Committee meeting attended by senior and executive officers of the hospital, Elisa's manual was the only report accepted by the committee.

"The report was put on the screen for everyone to see and the attendees were asked to use it as a model for the entire hospital," recalls Elisa. "I was shocked and flattered to receive congratulatory phone calls and the acknowledgment of the CEO and my supervisor." Elisa's achievement is a testament to her hard work since working with Bottomless Closet.

## NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

During the month of January, Bottomless Closet welcomed two new full-time staff members.



Alison Zaccone,  
Communications Director

Alison Zaccone joined as Communications Director and will lead all of the organization's traditional and social media outreach strategies. Alison is a seasoned Public Relations and Communications Professional with more than 12 years of experience in the field. Before joining Bottomless Closet, Alison spent nearly 10 years at the ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of

Cruelty to Animals) where she handled public relations and media outreach for many of the ASPCA's national programs as Director of Media & Communications. Alison also authors the bargain shopping and fashion blog NYC Recessionista in her spare time.

Carol Costello, our new Volunteer Manager, will oversee the organization's robust volunteer program, including recruitment, training, and retention. Drawn to Bottomless Closet by our mission of empowering women, Carol brings over 15 years of experience in volunteer management to her position. She was the Volunteer Director for 11 years at CASA\* for Children of Essex County NJ (\*Court Appointed Special Advocates), and prior to that, managed a volunteer-based writing program in her public school district. Carol has volunteered for a number of organizations over the years and currently volunteers as a cook for a soup kitchen in her community.



Carol Costello, Volunteer Manager

We are excited to have both Alison and Carol on board as Bottomless Closet continues to grow!

**Nearly 10.5K volunteer hours were donated in 2016 — 20% more than in 2015!**

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS & SUPPORT



Wells Fargo staff at Bottomless Closet

Thank you to all of the companies and organizations that continue to support our work with financial or in-kind gifts, and welcome to those new partners who have connected with us in the past few months!

Here are just a few recent examples: **U.S. Bank** donated \$9,000; **Corcoran Cares** gave \$7,500; **Wells Fargo's**

Generous in-kind donations included: necklaces from **PONO**, makeup from **e.l.f. Cosmetics**, and pantyhose from **Hanes Hosiery**.

'Community Connections' program donated \$5,000; **Société Générale** contributed \$5,000; **American Express** gave \$2,500; and **Barneys New York Downtown** gave \$1,500.

Additionally, many companies held donation drives for us, including: **Barneys New York Downtown** (the entire month of January); **U.S. Bank** (held a coat drive after seeing Bottomless Closet on **PIX 11 News**); **J. Jill** (held an in-store clothing drive); and **Morgan Stanley** (several office locations throughout the tri-state area held drives).



e.l.f. Cosmetics donation

**17 Career Days were held in 2016 — a Bottomless Closet record!**

### UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

#### STORYTELLING WORKSHOP - March 6th

In early March, Bottomless Closet will host current and former clients at our offices for a storytelling workshop. Clients will be paired with a volunteer coach to learn to tell their life stories and will be treated to business headshots taken by a professional photographer.

#### SMART & SEXY DAY - TBD

Bottomless Closet will again participate in Smart & Sexy Day. The event will empower women entering the workforce with workshops, guest speakers, bra fittings and more. Smart and Sexy Day is made possible by a grant from The Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits.

#### 'EQUAL MEANS EQUAL' FILM SCREENING - TBD

We are planning a fundraiser screening of 'Equal Means Equal' - a documentary about the treatment of women in this country, revealing the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. The date and other details for the screening will be announced soon.

**ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 • Cipriani, 42nd Street • for more information please visit [bottomlessclosetnyc.org/luncheon](http://bottomlessclosetnyc.org/luncheon)