

This project, now entering its sixth year, and is a joint effort between the Sunrise Newport Beach Rotary Club, Working Wardrobes and the Orange County Chapter of the Salvation Army. Each of these partners plays a critical role in the project. The purpose is to provide support for recovering adults who currently reside in the Salvation Army Residential Rehabilitation facility located in Orange. All of our clients are engaged in efforts to re-enter the workforce after successful treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.

Our clients ages range from 18 to 55 and all are enrolled in the Salvation Army's Work Therapy program. Our workshops are designed supplement this program. Each Saturday, at the Anaheim facility, three to four Success Coaches from the Newport Beach Rotary club conduct 90-minute workshops designed to teach and build confidence in the clients for their upcoming job search. Each workshop features different members from our club and focuses on identifying job skills, "elevator speeches," elements of the job application, interviewing techniques, budgeting and the next four steps to finding a job.

Midway through our workshop series, Working Wardrobes hosts a Success Day for our clients. We schedule our regular weekly Rotary meeting in conjunction with this event at the Working Wardrobes facility so that all of our members who attend meetings but are not able to act as Success Coaches can meet and interact with this group of men. The event lasts for about 4 hours, and during that time, our clients receive haircuts, manicures and are outfitted with business attire for the pending job interviews. Our club members act as personal shoppers for each individual client helping them select matching accessories.

Following the final workshop, a graduation ceremony is held. Many of our club members attend along with all the residents of the facility who are not yet eligible for our workshops. Attendance now has grown to over 100. Each client who completed the workshop series is awarded a certificate from Working Wardrobes and a plaque from the Sunrise Newport Beach Rotary Club to remind them that our club members are all behind them. For many of these men, it is the very first "training" they have ever completed. Following the ceremony, again our club members express their support for each client as they move forward in their job searches.

The Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club donates working attire to Working Wardrobes. This serves as the "kickoff" to the project. A representative from Working Wardrobes attends our weekly club meeting the Tuesday before we begin the workshop series to collect the donations. There are many components to this project offering very different ways for our club members to become involved. Some merely donate clothing. Others participate directly as Success Coaches. Most attend Success Day and allow our clients to practice their "elevator speeches" when introduced. Finally several club members attend graduation to show their support and reinforce the importance making a commitment. In the end, nine out of ten of our club members touch this project in one of these ways.