

Sunrise Newport Beach Rotary Club 2008 Vocational Project

This project is a joint effort between the Sunrise Newport Beach Rotary Club, Working Wardrobes Men's Wearhouse, and the Salvation Army. Each of these partners plays a critical role in the project.

The Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Club donates working attire to Working Wardrobes. This serves as the "kickoff" to the project. In addition, the club members act as the coaches for each of the Steps to Success Workshops. There are six weekly workshops focusing on identifying job skills, "elevator speeches," elements of the job application, interviewing techniques, budgeting and the next four steps to finding a job.

Working Wardrobes provides the curriculum for the workshops and training for our coaches. In addition, the Newport Sunrise Rotary Club sponsors a Self-esteem Day hosted by Working Wardrobes and Men's Wearhouse. The clients are outfitted for success with suits, shoes and all the accessories. In addition they receive hairstyling, messages and day-planners. Members of the Newport Beach Rotary Club act as personal shoppers and assist the clients in the selection and fitting of their working wardrobe right down to the tying of neckties.

The Salvation Army provides the clients who are all male residents of their facility in Anaheim. Their ages range from 18 to 50 and all are enrolled in Salvation Army's Work Therapy 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. Following the final workshop, a small graduation ceremony will be held and 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.

Over the course of eight weeks we hope that all members of our club donate suits, serve as Success Coaches during the workshops, act as personal shoppers during the Self-esteem Day or attend graduation to show support for these men.

The results from this project will be carried on for a lifetime for some of these men. For others, it will take some more time. Not all attempts at recovering from drugs, alcohol and felony convictions meet with success the first time. We will begin this project the project with 20 clients. At graduation, they will be grateful to our club, but interestingly enough, our club will also be grateful to them for letting us become part of their success.