

Employment Action Center and Men's Wearhouse team up for 2nd annual National Suit Drive

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Concerned that thousands of men are unable to secure employment because they lack the initial, yet vital, step of looking presentable for a job interview, Employment Action Center and Men's Wearhouse are working together to collect thousands of articles of professional attire as part of the 2nd Annual National Suit Drive, September 1-30.

Employment Action Center, a division of RESOURCE, along with more than 200 other nonprofit organizations have partnered with Men's Wearhouse, the nation's leading retailer of men's tailored clothing, to help empower unemployed men by providing the necessary work attire that will build their self-esteem and help make a lasting impression during job interviews.

"We are very excited to work with Men's Wearhouse on the National Suit Drive campaign," said Sherry Glanton, director of Employment Action Center's Youth & Young Parent Programs in Minneapolis, Minn. "Proper professional attire really makes a difference in our clients' lives. With these donations, men will have the opportunity to walk into an interview with confidence – an essential step toward economic stability."

Last year, the inaugural suit drive garnered 125,000 professional items nationally. This year, Employment Action Center and Men's Wearhouse have set a goal of not only gathering as many items as possible, but also increasing awareness about the importance clothing has on clients' success as they work to overcome barriers to gainful employment.

"It became apparent many years ago that there was a long-standing need to help men who are striving for self-sufficiency," said George Zimmer, CEO and chairman of Men's Wearhouse. "We started a merchandise donation program to provide professional clothing to nonprofit organizations serving these men. However, our program could not meet the demand, so we implemented the National Suit Drive to assist us in our efforts to help less fortunate men by giving them a renewed sense of dignity and respect. Philanthropy is a major part of our corporate fabric and given the economic climate, this year's National Suit Drive is more important than ever."

To demonstrate its commitment, Men's Wearhouse will add a new tie to help complete the outfit for every suit donated.

All 1,065 Men's Wearhouse and Men's Wearhouse & Tux locations will serve as drop-off sites for gently used suits, dress shirts, sport coats, slacks, ties, belts and shoes that will be used to benefit men in need of these items to transition into the workforce. Men's Wearhouse will accept donations for Employment Action Center, which in turn will provide them to individuals who utilize their services. For a complete list of drop-off locations, please visit www.nationalsuitdrive.com

Employment Action Center, a division of RESOURCE, prepares nearly 14,000 youth and adults a year to succeed in school and/or on the job. RESOURCE is a nonprofit organization that provides services in three areas of critical importance to the Twin Cities communities: employment and training, mental health and chemical health. RESOURCE directly assists over 20,000 adults and their 29,000 children each year from locations throughout the Twin Cities metro area, Duluth and St. Cloud.