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CONTACT:

Trina Fleming, VP of Marketing & Communications
WHW (Women Helping Women/Men2Work)
1800 East McFadden Avenue, Suite 1A, Santa Ana, CA 92705
(949) 631-2333 X304
Email: trinaf@whw.org
www.whw.org



4th Annual Boys2Men Suits Up Foster Youth

Santa Ana, California (June 3, 2014) - On Saturday, May 31st, WHW hosted 26 foster youth from agency partner Orangewood Children's Foundation at the 4th Annual Boys2Men Event. The day included a motivational presentation by a former foster youth



and a workshop focused on job seeking skills. With the help of 18 local businessmen who volunteered to spend a Saturday morning in a suit, each youth had the opportunity to pick out a complete professional outfit that included a suit, shirt, tie and a pair of shoes. "When I looked in the mirror," said one foster youth, "I saw a new fresh looking man. That's what I needed!"



This year a new component was added to the annual event. The youth and the volunteers were shuttled to the Orange County Rescue Mission for a business lunch workshop, "The Art of the Meal." Lauren Solomon, author of "Image Matters," shared the top ten etiquette tips when attending a business meal. The youth also had an opportunity to spend time asking questions and learning from the volunteer businessmen who shared their own stories and planted seeds of hope and inspiration. A recently

emancipated foster youth said that the event showed him "It's possible and not to give up." He added, "Thanks for building my confidence."

In California 65% of foster youth emancipate without a place to live, 51% are unemployed within 2-4 years of emancipation and 70% of all state prison inmates were in foster care. Boy2Men was created to help these at-risk youth attain and sustain gainful employment at the most critical time in their lives.



About WHW. WHW is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to provide comprehensive employment support services to empower disadvantaged men, women and teens to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment success and who has served over 40,000 clients since 1993. WHW's Employment Success Program includes resume and interviewing skills, workshops, computer classes, image consulting, professional clothing appropriate for interviews and transportation services. Supported by United Way, WHW's services are always at no charge or obligation to clients and 270 referring non-profit partners. For more information on WHW and its Employment Success Program, go to www.whw.org.

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