

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, June 9, 2015

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



The Bascom Group Helps Prepare Foster Youth for Economic Self-Sufficiency

Santa Ana, California (Tuesday, June 9, 2015) – On Saturday, June 6th, WHW (Women Helping Women/Men2Work) hosted 44 foster youth from partner agency Orangewood Children’s Foundation at their Fifth Annual **Boys2Men** event, sponsored by The Bascom Group of Irvine, California. These foster youth have been or will soon be emancipated, meaning they will no longer be wards of the state and will be left to care for themselves. Four years ago, WHW created the Boys2Men event to assist these at-risk youth with attaining some of the skills and resources necessary to gain prolonged employment during one of the most critical times in their lives.

The day began with breakfast and an inspirational presentation by a former foster youth who is making a successful transition. Then the youth attended employment readiness workshops geared toward giving them confidence and skills in seeking what will be, for many of them, their very first job, a critical step toward being able to support themselves. The highlight of the event was the time that each youth spent with a volunteer businessman who acted as a personal shopper, helping them to select a suit and accessories, as well as a mentor-for-the-day providing some much needed man to man time.

The event, which has grown each year, now includes a mock business lunch, which helps introduce some of the soft skills that the young men will need as they venture into the world of work and featured a keynote by David Kim, Co-Managing Partner of The Bascom Group. The Bascom Group, which has sponsored the event for the last three years, provides the funds for the suits, the accessories and the lunch, even sending their own executives to shop for clothing and volunteer at the event.



Bascom’s Paul Diamond, David Kim and Chris McLeod with two newly emancipated foster youth.



Lynden thinks his professional look is very cool.

According to David Kim, he believes Bascom’s role is “to inspire, provide vision and a road to becoming contributing members of society, and not liabilities.” In California 65% of foster youth emancipate without a place to live, 51% are unemployed within two to four years of emancipation and 70% of all state prison inmates were in foster care. “This is a key program to equip and empower these impressionable young men to become strong and confident in their interviewing skills,” said Robyn Williams, WHW’s Director of Programs, “helping them to secure employment and excel in the marketplace so they can become self-sufficient, and so that they are not one of those statistics.”

Since conception, WHW’s Boys2Men has helped 140 foster youth in preparing for employment success. The hope is that the Boys2Men event and time spent with successful businessmen will plant seeds of encouragement and inspiration for these boys who need to become men very quickly.



Josh shows off his very first suit.

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 60,000 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. WHW’s services are always at no charge to clients and 275 referring non-profit partners. For more information on WHW, its Employment Success Program or the Boys2Men event, go to www.whw.org.