

*With you...
... our success lives on.*





*W*hat has moved my heart so very much these past 31 years is the people I've met.

The people we serve. The people who provide support in countless ways. The people who cheer me on, even when times were challenging. The people who work beside me to help transform lives.

We've accomplished so much together and this quote comes to mind...

"It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but you are not free to desist from it either."

So, we are not done. There is much more to do.

And that is where you come in.

JERRI ROSEN ♥
Legacy
FUND

*O*ur legacy fund was created to honor Working Wardrobes founder, Jerri Rosen, who has spent much of her life providing people with the skills and confidence they need to achieve excellence and success in the workforce.

For more than 30 years, Jerri has passionately led the charge for 110,000 men, women, young adults and veterans, helping them overcome difficult challenges on their path to meaningful employment.

Our Legacy Fund is designed to have a far-reaching impact in the lives of our clients, just as the ripple effect of Jerri's longstanding work has immeasurably improved families, neighborhoods, communities and our world.

You can help carry the torch to restore confidence to the hopeless, self-sufficiency to the discouraged, and jobs to the unemployed and underemployed for generations to come. We offer flexible ways to give, including bequests and other financial planning tools, so you can make a lasting mark on our community.

Jerri has committed to a generous Working Wardrobes bequest from her personal estate as an enduring contribution to the mission she launched.

Please join her with your Legacy Fund donation to sustain our clients and mission for generations to come.

The fabric of our history.

In 1990, Jerri joined several close friends to create the first-ever “Day of Self-Esteem,” serving 67 women from six domestic violence shelters in our community. This remarkable event transformed the lives of the women served that day, and Jerri’s life as well.

She founded Working Wardrobes that same year.

While she didn’t envision starting a nonprofit organization at that time, Jerri knew the people served needed more than a one-day event, once a year.



She spent a number of years juggling the demands of her busy advertising agency with the planning logistics and volunteer management required to host client events that transformed lives.

The dedicated band of volunteers who came together every year to host these important client events joined Jerri in realizing there was a need to serve more people.



In 1995, she and her dedicated volunteers began serving men and in 1998, they extended their services to young adults. As their client population and services grew, so did the need for increased revenue. Thus, Working Wardrobes was formalized.



Volunteers are a major part of the fabric of Working Wardrobes. They take part in every aspect of the work done to serve clients.

Social entrepreneurship at work.

A social entrepreneur at heart, Jerri opened the first resale boutique in 2001 to help fund the Working Wardrobes mission. At the time, they had plenty of clothes but not a lot of money.

And so, a business plan was born!

That business model, now called a social enterprise model, is what our four stores were built on. This same model lives on today, continuing to generate significant revenue that directly supports our client programs.

Two store concepts exist today – The Hanger Boutiques and The Hanger Outlets - offering outstanding merchandise to a growing clientele in four different cities.

Jerri envisions the growth of our organization’s social enterprises as just one part of the future success of Working Wardrobes.

To serve the growing need in our community, the team at Working Wardrobes continues to look to donors to ensure Jerri’s vision becomes reality.



Our stores offer excellent merchandise and provide significant revenue to support client services.

Building Relationships *is at our Core*



Jerri is shown with past Board Chair Bob Hurley and then Irvine Mayor Don Wagner, receiving a proclamation for service to the community.

Over the decades, Jerri established deep relationships with volunteers, donors, businesses and community leaders to expand our programs and client base; tirelessly advocated our mission to political officeholders, news organizations and community partners; and endlessly worked to help at-risk people find jobs.

In 1999, she forged a partnership with the National Human Resources Association to provide career coaching services to deserving clients. This partnership, in particular, enabled the organization to achieve a major goal in providing outstanding workforce readiness services to clients. Rebuilding confidence and self-esteem became the true heart of the services provided to clients.



Every client is matched with a Success Coach for individual employment planning.

In 2007, Jerri forged yet another very important relationship with the National Retail Federation in Washington, D.C. when she participated in the Capitol PurSUIT campaign. This five-year event helped to expand awareness of the bi-partisan need for workforce training and readiness services.



Past Board Chair Marilen Coughenour joined Jerri and then Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez in D.C. at a press conference.

Working Wardrobes became the first Orange County organization to offer the National Retail Federation's certified customer service training and certification programs to the clients we serve. This special training transforms the lives of clients and expands their visions of what they can do with their careers.

These invaluable partnerships remain intact today.



In the early morning hours of Sunday, February 2, 2020, a fire destroyed the Working Wardrobes headquarters, causing a loss in excess of \$2,500,000 in office equipment, infrastructure, collateral, and donated clothing and accessories.

As any nonprofit CEO will attest, Jerri has overcome many obstacles, though none as challenging as the devastating fire on February 2, 2020. In a true test to the relationships she forged over 30 years, hundreds of very generous donors in the Orange County community rallied immediately to raise money for a Rebuild Fund.

In an incredible five months, Jerri and her team rebuilt the entire organization which now has a well-stocked Donation Center in Irvine, and a state-of-the-art Career Success Center in Santa Ana. It was a combination of revenue and in-kind contributions that helped her get the organization on firm footing again.

With hundreds of thousands of people out of work today, the need for our services has never been greater. Your Legacy Fund Contribution allows us to continue to deliver on our mission.



On September 30, 2020, Working Wardrobes CEO Jerri Rosen cut the ribbon, with then Board Chair, Justin Frame, on the new Career Success Center in Santa Ana.

The heart of our work.

Clients are the heart of our purpose. We are committed to hearing at-risk individuals say, "I Got The Job!" We are passionate about helping men, women, young adults and veterans achieve the Power of a Paycheck.

The clients we serve have overcome many difficult challenges, including homelessness, incarceration, addiction, domestic violence, catastrophic financial loss and the ever-challenging military-to-civilian transition, to be gainfully employed and self-sufficient.

They are true champions of our mission who have faced many obstacles on their journey to jobs.

For over three decades, Jerri has tirelessly worked to expand the breadth and depth of the services we offer to help those in need overcome obstacles.



It is the "after photos" of our esteemed clients that speak volumes about the transformation we provide.

In 2012, Jerri joined forces with former United States Navy SEAL, Harry Humphries, to formalize work with veterans by launching VetNet – a safety net for veterans. The program provides specialized career and personal development resources so they can lead happy, healthy, productive lives after military service.

Jerri was the driving force behind the creation of Power UP, an award-winning class designed to build fortitude and friendships for transitioning veterans who often find it very difficult to adjust to civilian life. She also led the charge for numerous Career Success Graduation events, on-site at Camp Pendleton, to support transitioning Marines, Sailors and military spouses.

Through the years, Jerri has been instrumental in creating many exciting, uniquely-themed fundraising events that have warmly welcomed clients to share their amazing success stories.

With Jerri's guidance and direction, Working Wardrobes has proactively supported the unemployed and underemployed in our community. We have provided our services free of charge so people can get on their feet and back to work.

Our fundamental goal is to help the at-risk members of our community succeed on the job and in life.



Jerri shown with her lifetime hero, Harry Humphries, celebrating the launch of VetNet. The program serves thousands of veterans and is closest to her heart and in memory of her father, an Army veteran.



Our future belongs to you.

As a Legacy Fund donor, you become part of the enduring tapestry of our organization. You empower us to continue to serve thousands of people right here in our community. You remove obstacles as our clients journey toward employment. You sustain our mission and honor Jerri's lifework.

When you make Working Wardrobes part of your estate plan, we are able to serve thousands of additional clients on their journey to employment and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for preserving our founding mission, securing our future and helping people achieve the Power of a Paycheck for years to come.



“Jerri and I have known each other for over 25 years, and I have walked every step of this incredible journey with her. I admire and respect the deep and meaningful impact she has made in our community, and I am profoundly proud of all that she’s accomplished.”

When I heard Jerri was retiring, I became a Legacy Donor at once. I view my gift as the best way to ensure her passion and spirit live on in the Working Wardrobes mission, for generations to come.”

Sam Dawson, Legacy Fund Donor

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Stefaan Poortman
Chief Revenue Officer



2000 E. McFadden Ave., Suite 100 • Santa Ana, CA 92705
OFFICE: (714) 210-2460
CELL: (202) 957-3383 • stefaanp@workingwardrobes.org

www.workingwardrobes.org

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Career Success Center

2000 E. McFadden Avenue, Suite 100 • Santa Ana, CA 92705
714.210.2460 • workingwardrobes.org