***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Press Contact:**

**Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, Valerie J. Camara and Florence Baker**

**T: (908) 709-1177**

***THE ALLIANCE OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT NONPROFITS AND THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD’S CAREER CLOSET CELEBRATE***

***NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH***

***BY HOSTING A SUCCESSFUL WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT DAY EVENT***

**CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**–March 29, 2018 - On March 20, 2018, the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield’s Career Closet and the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN) hosted a celebratory event from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Jumble Store located at 110 Walnut Avenue in Cranford honoring Women’s History Month. Career Closet volunteers assisted women from three community partner organizations with selecting business attire. They also received a professional bra fitting and new *Smart & Sexy* bra, and training on building a resume, interviewing skills and building a professional wardrobe on a budget. The program included a presentation on social media and online tools to assist with job searches and networking. A panel of professional women discussed how they were able to maximize the use of social media along with traditional networking tools in their careers. The ladies also received a new computer tote, and a copy of *Millennials in Wonderland: Coaching Grads at the Crossroads of Life and Career* along with the clothing. The event was made possible by a grant from ACDN and *Smart & Sexy* and volunteers from the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield.

The event was one of twelve events being hosted by ACDN member organizations throughout the U.S. to celebrate Women’s History Month. These events were aimed at helping women prepare for employment with career development training, career dressing and bra fittings to assist them with the tools they need to succeed. The holiday was launched in 2012 by Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (formerly known as The Women’s Alliance) - a national organization of independent, community-based member organizations who provide professional attire and career skills training to low income women and men - and sponsored by Smart & Sexy, one of the largest privately held lingerie companies in the country.

**ABOUT Smart & Sexy**

Smart & Sexy was founded with the idea that women should be able to have fashionably sexy lingerie that provides figure solutions at great prices. Today, we are one of the largest privately held lingerie companies in the US, selling over 60 million garments a year under numerous national brands. Smart & Sexy is our in-house brand created for the fashion savvy woman. Smart fit, sexy and flattering looks, quality, comfort and amazing value are the brand's guiding principles. Smart & Sexy is the in-house brand for Ariela & Associates International which was founded over 20 years ago and is one of the largest privately held lingerie companies in the country.

Learn more: www.smartandsexy.com

**For more information on Smart & Sexy, please contact:**

Brady Halbert, Brand Manager

T: 212-683-4131 x2729 / E: bhalbert@aai-llc.com

**ABOUT the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN)**

The Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN) is the leading network of unique community based non-profits that empower women and men to achieve economic independence. ACDN fosters the creation and growth of community-based organizations that assist individuals to secure and maintain employment. We believe anyone who wants a job, should get one. All ACDN member organizations offer free professional clothing so job seekers can make a great first impression.

Each year, member agencies of ACDN assist more than 25,000 women and men across the country transition into the workplace. The professional clothing, training, and coaching services provided by our member agencies help women and men coming out of poverty, welfare, and other dire circumstances prepare for and succeed in the workplace. Since ACDN’s inception, over 300,000 women and men have been outfitted with interview attire.

Learn more: www.acdnonline.org.

**For more information about the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits, please contact:**

Lynda-Ross Vega, Board President

M: 817-832-3299 / E: lrvega@acdnonline.org

Carrie Hanson Veurink, Managing Partner

M: 925-849-7500 / E: [cveurink@acdnonline.org](mailto:cveurink@acdnonline.org)

**ABOUT the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield and Career Closet**

Since 2001, the Career Closet has provided career-dressing services to low-income women at no charge. We dress women who are reentering the workforce or advancing their career. The women come from Union County and the surrounding areas and are referred by community partners and government agencies. By providing professional clothing, we hope to increase the self-confidence, self-esteem, and ultimately, the self-sufficiency of these women. Last year Career Closet dressed over 170 women and partnered with over 25 community partners and government agencies. All business clothing and accessories are provided through donations and grants. Career Closet is a project of the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield.

The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The organization is celebrating 95 years as a Junior League Chapter serving the community!

Learn more: www.jlepnj.org.

**For more information about the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield, please contact:**

Christine Lagatta, President 2016-2017, Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield

Tel. (908)709-1177 / E: president@jlepnj.org

Valerie Camara and Florence Baker, Co-chairs Career Closet