

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE ALLIANCE OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT NONPROFITS AND THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH PLAINFIELD'S CAREER CLOSET CELEBRATE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BY HONORING AND EMPOWERING WOMEN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN A NATIONAL EVENT PRESENTED BY SMART & SEXY

CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY February 27, 2017 – On March 22, 2017, the Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield's Career Closet and the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits will host a celebratory event from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Jumble Store located at 110 Walnut Avenue in Cranford in honor of Women's History Month. The Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN), Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield's Career Closet and eleven (11) other ACDN member organizations are kicking off events in March throughout the U.S. aimed at helping women prepare as much as possible for employment. These Smart and Sexy Day events will inspire women – boosting their self-confidence so that they feel assured, confident and, most of all, employable. 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.

“It is difficult for those who have been out of the job market to find employment – this is true in times of job growth, economic downturn, or economic uncertainty. The need for the services our member agencies provide is crucial for individuals striving to gain employment. A lack of appropriate clothing to make an excellent first impression at an interview can create impossible barriers for disadvantaged women and men,” says Lynda-Ross Vega, Board President of the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits. “Our community-based, volunteer driven member organizations serve over 25,000 women and men each and every year, day in and day out assuring low-income people seeking self-sufficiency have an equal chance! This event brings awareness to this important work and the impact our members are having on thousands of people's lives in your community.”

As part of the celebration, the Alliance of Career Development Nonprofit (ACDN) member organizations will provide a day of workforce training, professional image classes and individual support for women with the goal of enabling them to take action, secure employment and enhance the quality of their lives. The goal of the holiday is to help women feel good about who they are, because feeling good is looking good. Women who attend the day's events at a participating ACDN location will receive Smart & Sexy foundation garments from Smart & Sexy as well as job seeking skills training from leading local industry professionals and dedicated volunteers. The impact of the day is to demonstrate how Smart & Sexy, ACDN and their member organizations support women in more ways than one! Attendees will also be taught how to shop and build a professional wardrobe on a budget.

“As an organization that strives to inspire women every day, Bottomless Closet is incredibly proud to participate in Smart & Sexy Day again this year,” said Melissa Norden, Executive Director of Bottomless Closet. “We know that our clients will leave this event empowered, self-confident and ready to start a new chapter in their professional lives – the same way we strive to make them feel each time they leave our office.”

Providing that learning opportunity during this celebratory Smart and Sexy Day event – and every day – is the mission of our 23 member organizations.”

Special programming, including accurate fittings and free foundational garments from Smart & Sexy, will be held in the following cities in the month of March:

- **Bloom (San Rafael, CA) – March 16**
- **Bottomless Closet (New York, NY) - March 13**
- **Career Wardrobe (Philadelphia, PA) - March 27**
- **Desert Best Friend’s Closet (Palm Desert, CA) – March 24**
- **Jackets for Jobs, Inc. (Detroit, MI) – March 15**
- **Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield Career Closet (Cranford, NJ) – March 22**
- **Ladies of Valor Empowerment (Miami, FL) - March 25**
- **Suited for Success (Oklahoma City, OK) - March 23**
- **Tailored for Success (Malden, MA) – March 30**
- **Transforming Lives & Restoring Hope, Inc. (Roanoke Rapids, NC) – March 18**
- **WHW (Santa Ana, CA) – March 24**
- **YWCA Allentown’s The Perfect Fit for Working Women (Allentown, PA) – March 27**

All Alliance of Career Development Nonprofits (ACDN) Members will receive product from Smart & Sexy to give to their clients. For a full list of ACDN members, visit: www.acdnonline.org/locations.

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:

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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:

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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.

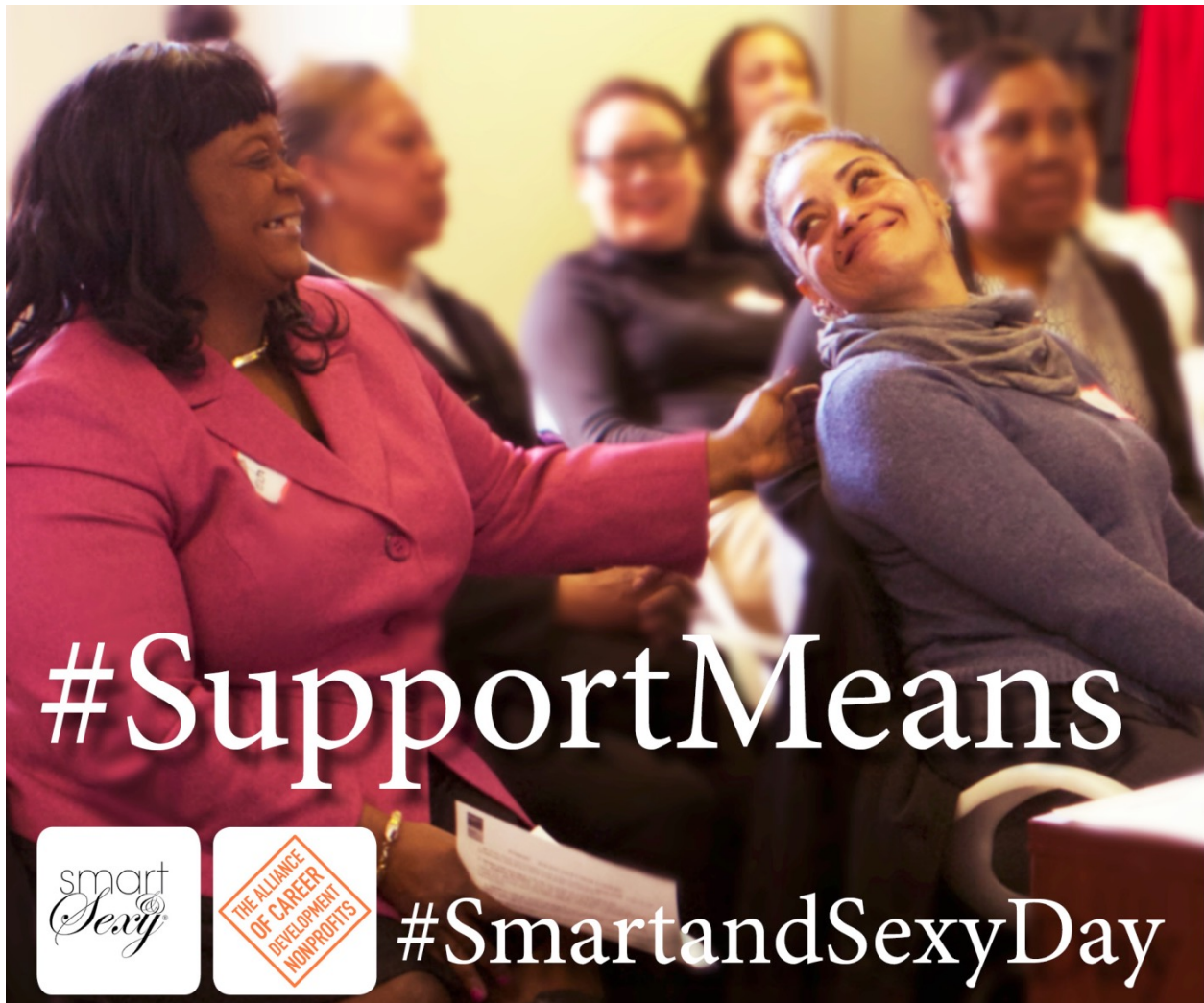
The Junior League of Elizabeth Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.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

Learn more: www.jlepnj.org.

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

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