

Clothing helps Dads step up

Being in the clothing business, I was always being asked where my clients could donate used clothing. After several calls I was directed to the Philadelphia Comprehensive Center for Fathers, a Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition program that works with men to help them be better fathers. After calling, I decided to stop by for what I thought would be a short visit. Two hours later I left knowing that the group's cause had now become my cause.

During my visit, I got to see how this group works with men in developing their skills, beliefs and confidence, giving them the tools they need to get back into fatherhood. Work-N-Style, a program offered by the center, provides clothing for the men and prepares them to step out into the workplace. The organization, however, does not have enough clothes for the 1,000 men per year it tries to suit up.

Kofi Asante, the program's director, leads the initiative, which serves the fathers of children who are eligible for federal poverty assistance. It helps fathers with and without custody of their children gain high school equivalent diplomas, and provides training in life skills and parenting. It also offers nutrition education, career assessments, mentoring support groups and tuition help for job-specific training.

Another goal of the center this year is to have a breakfast and lunch delivered every day so these men can fuel their bodies, which in turn will fuel their minds and souls. There will be a sponsorship list that will allow companies and individuals to become a sponsor at whatever level is fitting.

What great timing since I was about to launch my new business, A Suitable Solution, which helps create winning images for both individuals and businesses. I felt that my knowledge and contacts would help to bring the Comprehensive Center for Fathers one step closer to achieving its vision.

It is my dream that we all realize it is our gift and responsibility to reach out and help others to change lives that in the end have a domino effect that leaves a mark on many. So become a part of a dream, either by donating clothing or financial aid. This truly is a Perfect Fit for all.



GUEST COMMENT

Sara Canuso

Work-N-Style provides clothing for the men and prepares them to enter the workplace.

SARA CANUSO is president of A Suitable Solution (www.asuitable.com), a Philadelphia company that advises clients on creating a

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Philadelphia, PA 19106 | 215-238-1450
philadelphia.bizjournals.com

AmericanCity
Business Journals

Philadelphia Business Journal is a publication of
American City Business Journals, Inc.,
120 West Morehead St., Charlotte, N.C. 28202
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