

BOTTOMLESS CLOSET® **2018 Annual Report**

A Note from our Executive Director and Board Chair

Dear Friends of Bottomless Closet,

We are excited to share our 2018 Annual Report with you. 2018 was a year of incredible growth for Bottomless Closet, and we could not have helped as many women in need without the continued support of each and every one of you.

Last year alone we had more than 4,200 client interactions and a 16 percent increase in the number of individual clients served, creating even more opportunities for us to provide women with valuable resources and tools. Every single one of these interactions – from the clothing, shoes and accessories we provide in our boutique, to the resume help and one-on-one interview coaching – is an important step on their path to a fresh start. 2018 was also the first time we tested opening on Fridays for client appointments, laying the groundwork to reach our goal of providing services five days a week.

Since its founding in 1999, nearly 40,000 women have come through the doors of Bottomless Closet, and as we celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2019, we know that this is just the beginning.

The generosity and support of our donors, corporate partners, referral partners, volunteers, board and staff enables us to expand our reach and help even more women each year. On behalf of the women we serve, we thank you.

With gratitude,

Melissa Norden, Executive Director

Anne Blackman, Board Chair

2018 By the Numbers

4,264



Client Interactions 2,718



Individual Women Served

35,000



Pieces of Clothing **Distributed**

22



Financial Management Workshops

30



Professional Development Workshops

26



Personal Enrichment Workshops

178

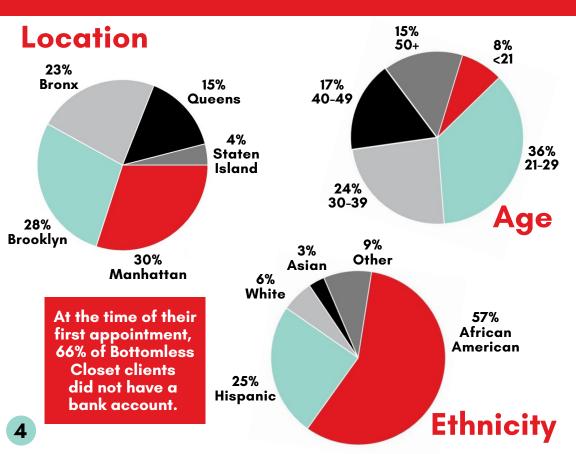


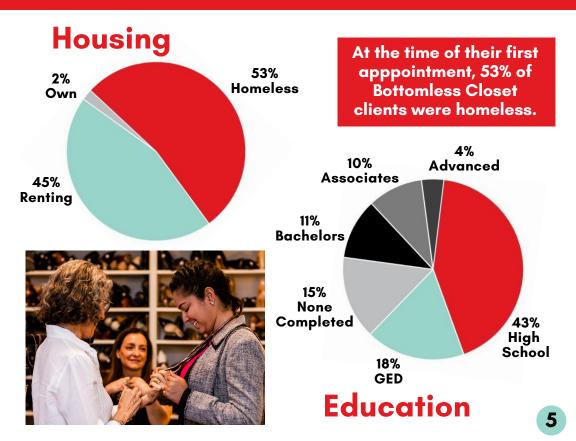
Career Day Attendees

...and over 1,000 workshop attendees!

59% of Bottomless Closet clients were hired for the job for which they were interviewed immediately following their appointment!

The Women We Serve





Who We Are & How We Empower Women in Need

Bottomless Closet's mission is to be the connection that inspires and guides disadvantaged New York City women to enter the workforce and achieve success. From our grassroots beginnings, we have grown into an organization that has served nearly 40,000 women in need, amassed nearly 200 dedicated volunteers and 150 referral partners, and has had over 1,000 workshop attendees just this year. As we look to the future, our founding principles of helping and empowering women in need still guide our daily work.

The Bottomless Closet experience is all about making women feel confident, prepared, and empowered to ace their job interviews, start that new job, and begin their journey to self-sufficiency.



Attire

Upon arriving at Bottomless Closet, each woman is paired up one-on-one with a volunteer career coach who will handle the duration of the appointment. They will begin in the boutique, where they can choose professional clothing, shoes, and accessories that will help them give a sparkling first impression.

Resume Help

During the second half of the appointment, they will sit down together and review their resume to make sure it best reflects their individual skills and qualifications. Our in-house resume experts will update their resume in real time, so they can leave Bottomless Closet with brand new copies printed out, and on a flash drive in several formats for their job search.

Interview Prep

While their resume is being updated, their volunteer career coach will conduct a mock interview with them. Together, they will tackle everything from the importance of shaking hands and making eye contact, to how to deliver their personal elevator pitch and best answer all the tough interview questions without getting flustered. They will practice highlighting their strengths, citing examples from their past work experience to demonstrate various skills, and even getting comfortable messaging things like a gap in employment.

By the time they leave
Bottomless Closet, they will
have everything they need to
ace their interview and get the
job. If they don't get the job
on the first try, they can come
back for additional coaching
before their next interview. If
they get the job, we'll give
them additional coaching for
success in their new job, as
well as additional outfits so
they will have a solid
foundational wardrobe.



"I've had a pretty bad week. A lot of ups and downs, but today really cheered me up. I'm so happy I came here."

Who We Are & How We Empower Women in Need

Workshops

Everyone who comes through our doors also gains access to our selection of workshops, whether they get the job or not. Bottomless Closet offers a wide variety of workshops in the areas of Financial Management, Professional Development, and Personal Enrichment — all aimed at making the transition into work and the path to self-sufficiency that much smoother. All workshops are provided free of charge and most include a healthy meal.





Bottomless Closet also offers a variety of career days and workshops hosted off-site by our corporate partners, where women can get an inside look at different industries and career paths, and get additional advice and coaching while further practicing their networking skills. The women we serve can also earn certificates for both our Financial Management and Professional Development workshop series, which are awarded each year at our annual graduation ceremony.

"I was treated with dignity by people who genuinely care about me."

TODAY Show & Unilever Give Clients Confidence

In September 2018, Bottomless Closet was featured in an 'Ambush Makeover' segment on The *TODAY Show* during the fourth hour of the show, hosted by Kathie Lee and Hoda. The piece featured taped interviews with two of our clients and our celebrity supporter Susan Sarandon. Bottomless Closet Executive Director Melissa Norden was also interviewed about our mission and work. During the live segment in studio, they treated our clients to makeovers and other special gifts, including gift cards

KaThie LEE & HODA

to White House Black Market.

The greatest surprise, however, came at the end of the segment, when they surprised Bottomless Closet with a donation of \$17,000 worth of personal hygiene products from Unilever. The generous gift included full-size bottles of Dove deodorant, dry shampoo and body wash; Suave shampoo and conditioner; TRESemmé hair styling products; and Vaseline Intensive Care Moisturizer.

So many of our clients cannot afford these basic items, making this gift from the *TODAY Show* and Unilever even more appreciated.



J.Jill Increases Support for Bottomless Closet

For the last three years, Bottomless Closet has received clothing donations through J.Jill's Gently Worn program as part of their Compassion Fund.

Two times a year, J.Jill customers can bring donations of gently worn clothing to their local J.Jill store and receive a coupon for 30% off a future purchase. Those clothing donations then find their way to Bottomless Closet and soon get a second life with the women we serve.

In 2018, J.Jill deepened its support for Bottomless Closet, awarding us a grant through their Compassion Fund for the first time, enabling us to help even more women in need.

the J.Jill compassion fund

CONNECTION. COMMITMENT. COMMUNITY.



Founded in 2002, the J.Jill Compassion Fund supports and empowers women to move forward faster and establish a better life for themselves, their children and their families. J.Jill provides assistance to local community-based organizations like Bottomless Closet across the country who are focused on development and educational programs.

Partnerships like the one we have with J.Jill enable us to not only stock our boutique with the items we need to help women feel confident as they enter the workforce, but also to fund our programming and operations so we can continue providing our clients with resume help, interview coaching, workshops and career days to help them thrive.

"I'm a new immigrant to U.S. and I am really appreciative...I will always remember that you were there when I needed it most."

Jazmith Makes the Financial Workshops Work for Her

Health issues took quite a toll on Bottomless Closet client Jazmith in 2013, keeping her out of work for almost four years. Unfortunately, being unemployed also took a serious toll on her finances. "After using up all of my savings and retirement funds, I started using credit cards to cover my family's expenses," she recalls. With a son in college, she had no choice but to pay for many of his educational expenses with credit cards as well. "I was charging everything, and then I was using one credit card to pay off another credit card," Jazmith admits.

After coming to Bottomless Closet for the first time, she learned about the free workshops available to clients, and decided to check out some of the Financial Management programming. "I started small, with one workshop at the time," remembers Jazmith. "But I kept going, because I love learning new things, and I felt so comfortable in that environment. There was no judgment."



In December 2018, Jazmith graduated from both workshop series, earning certificates in Financial Management and Professional Development. However, the certificates weren't the only things she gained from the workshops.

"I began paying off the credit card with the highest interest rate first, and taking advantage of 0% interest offers to eliminate my debt," says Jazmith. "I cancelled all of the unnecessary memberships I once had. I now track all my spending and stick to my budget. I am more mindful when it comes to money and how I spend it. I've even begun saving and investing."

Jazmith Makes the Financial Workshops Work for Her

(cont'd.) Jazmith even got a job as a Budget Analyst for a New York City nonprofit, where she's been working for more than two years. She's also been able to utilize some of the things she's learned in the workshops at her job. "Not only was I able to obtain practical knowledge that has helped me improve personally but also professionally. It has been very rewarding."

Beyond helping her improve her finances, Jazmith has gained many other new skills that she can apply in her daily life.

"I continue to attend career days and make regular updates to my resume and practice mock interviews, because I would love to find additional work. I am also in the process of creating a LinkedIn profile," she adds.

She's made some valuable connections, too. "I've met many ladies from different backgrounds and have become friends with them," says Jazmith.

"I have found a community that motivates me to keep learning and growing."



"I started small, with one workshop at a time. But I kept going, because I love learning new things, and I felt so comfortable in that environment.

There was no judgment."

-Jazmith

Volunteer Helps Turn Couture Into Cash

Three and a half years ago, Volunteer Maggie Lear first walked through the front door of Bottomless Closet. Since she started volunteering with us, she has been able to work one-on-one with hundreds of clients, helping them to polish their resumes, coaching them on job interview skills, and helping them find the clothing that reflects their best self.

An unusual shipment of donations would arrive one day that would give Maggie a new and unique way to help pay it forward. Designer Carolina Herrera generously donated a high volume of samples to Bottomless Closet - including evening gowns, wedding dresses, and designer separates - and at first glance, staff members weren't sure what to do with the very formal pieces.



"We can't exactly give evening gowns to our clients, but we routinely have trouble keeping the boutique stocked with plus-size clothing and larger size shoes," said Executive Director Melissa Norden. "We brainstormed about how we might be able to utilize the gowns to support our inventory and other programs, and Maggie immediately stepped in to help." Opening up her home, Maggie hosted a series of incredibly successful sample sales, raising nearly \$80,000 in much-needed funding for Bottomless Closet.

"I absolutely loved getting the chance to sell all of those gorgeous Carolina Herrera pieces," says Maggie. "To have 100% of the profits go to Bottomless Closet is a win-win for everyone!"

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Volunteer Helps Turn Couture Into Cash



Pictured above: Maggie (center) with dancers from Ballet Hispánico, who supported the sample sale by purchasing dresses for their annual gala.

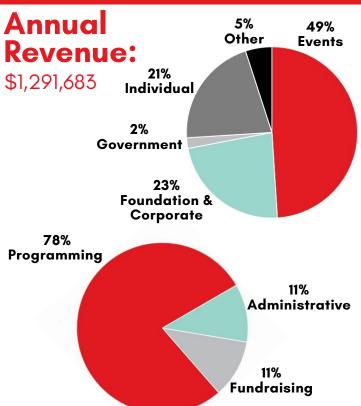
(cont'd.) Maggie's dedication, creativity, and her willingness to go above and beyond as a Bottomless Closet volunteer made her a natural choice for our Luise Kleinberg Volunteer of the Year Award at our 2018 Luncheon.

We know that the next time a big donation of designer gowns comes in, Maggie will be there to help us turn couture into cash.

Pictured below: Maggie (left) and her sister, Kate Lear, shopping during one of the sample sales.



Bottomless Closet's 2018 Financials





"All of you have enhanced my quality of life by empowering me to go forward and seize the day."

Annual Expenses:*

\$1,563,080

^{* 2018} expenses have also been funded in part by a prior capacity grant used to invest in our growth initiatives

2018 Volunteers

Our caring and dedicated volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Their support enables us to provide meaningful, individualized attention to the women we serve.

Bibi Ali Linda Alpert

Susan S. Ach

Flavia Arena

Lynne Ault

Beverly Beckley

Arlene Bein

Meryl P. Benaim

Susan Berman Laura Bernstein

Arlene Bessenoff

Kelsey Bilodeau

Nancy Black

Anne Blackman

Lola Bodansky Lynne Borah

Henna P. Boucher

Laura Brass

Roberta Brenner

Lisa Bromberg

Sarina M. Bronfin

Nicole Brown

Lori Bucara

Edna Burak

Bonnie Cantor

Emily Carter

Neecoll Chou

Dottie G. Clutton

Rory Conforte

Carroll Connacher

Harriet Cook

Ashley Crone

Teresa Donahue

Roberta Dougherty

Danielle Dowrich

Carole G. Durso

Marcia East

Phyllis Ehrlich

Linda Eichenbaum

Pat Emanuele

Sylvia Erdman

Gloria Fahlikman

Pam Feinberg

Lynda Feld

Lani Feldman

Riva M. Fensterheim

Nancy Fink

Katie Fogarty

Margaret Fogel

Erica Frederick Lee S. Freund

Pearl Gartner

Virginia Gibbs

Kathy Gilbert

Patty Gillette

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Mira Graetz-Ball

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Joan Greenspan Sara D. Greenwood

Susan Haberman

Christina N. Hanco

Rory Hayden

Caroline Hines

Cynthia Howells

Beth Ifcher

Ronnie L. Jacobs

Anna Jorgensen

Phyllis Josselsohn

Jody Kahn

Barbara Katz

Zena Kaufman

Rebecca Kavanagh

Diane Kenney

Bette Kessler

Lorraine Kessler

Sandra Kilstein

Flise Kim

Kimberly Kinsler

Iris Klein

Malinda F. Knowles

Judy Kozuck

Maribeth T. Kraus

Deborah Krieger

Sheila Lambert

Linda Larkin

Judi Leal

Maggie Lear

Jill Lesser

Theresa Lin

Dee Dee Maguehi Dorothy W. Mahoney Lisa Maldonado Susan Mandell Nina Marks Judith Monson Yuet Wah Moy Lynn Myers Susan Neumann Heather Nielsen Brigitte Nioche Allison Northup Jane Blair Oberle Sanya Pandit **Avery Pearce** La'Verne E. Perry-Kennedy Tami Peter Cindy Pinter Isabelle Pinzler Carolyn Preiss Fllen M. Refowitz Ronnie D. Reiman Lorie Reischer Adriana Ricci

Margery Riker Hope Roberts Rita Roffe Karin Rose Ioan Rose Marina W Ross Jane Rothstein Marion Ruan Cheryl Rubin Dominique F. Saint-Fort Sandra Schneiderman Margie Schneidman Diane Schoenthal Carol Schulweis Jane Shea Katherine Skelley Robynne Smith Barbara Sorkin Aline Sosne Stefanie Steel Marjorie Stern Madlyn Stokely Paula Stoler Judy Tabak

Vivien Tannen

Dina Tranen
Melissa Uram
Eileen Warner
Laura Waters
Doris Weil
Elaine Weinstein
Janice Weisler

Jean Weiss Phyllis Werner Phyllis White Elaine White Reva Wurtzburger Leslie Yoo Andrea Zelenetz



2018 Donors

Each financial gift we receive, no matter how big or small, helps us fulfill our mission to empower New York City women in need. Below is a list of gifts we received of \$500 and above.

\$50,000+

RNY Mellon Sheila and Bill Lambert

\$35,000-\$49,999

Timothy & Michelle Barakett Foundation Wells Fargo

\$20,000-\$34,999

Jane Lane/A.D. Philanthropic Fund Louise Braver The City of New York Con Edison The J.Jill Compassion Fund Jane and Christian Oberle The Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust Sara and Joshua Slocum Thomas D. & Denise Stern Family Foundation The Thompson Family

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U.S. Bank

The Women's Bond Club of NY

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\$15,000-\$19,999 Christine C. Chana

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Alliance of Career **Development Nonprofits** Arconic Foundation Paul Barkus Andrew and Marcie Braver Linda Hackett/ C.A.L. Foundation, Inc. Centerview Partners Edward Conard Katherine Davisson Deloitte & Touche USA

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Katherine and

Heath Watkin

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Isabella del

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Barbara Georgescu Global Brands Group Patricia and Bernard Goldstein Shanna Goldstone Adrienne Gordon Jody Gorton Ruth Gottesman June L. Gottlieb Susan Grausman Ruby and Robert Hearn Herbert Smith Freehills New York IIP Carolyn H. Huggins Hunter Public Relations Cathy and Mark Iger IM Designs, LLC Rochelle Jackman Leslie Jerome Sara Kay Iris and Edward Klein Mara Klein Ming Robert Kleinberg Rachel Kutler

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Leslie You Anne and Brian Young Sheila and Joseph T Yurcik Jennifer Zabinski and Patrick McKee lane and Ron 7immerman

We apologize for any inaccuracies. If your name has been left off this list, please contact us at info@bottomlesscloset.org.

"I had been looking for a job for months, but after I came to Bottomless Closet for the first time, I was offered a job the very same day as my next interview. Responses to my new resume came flooding in, and I had multiple job offers, including for higherpaying positions than the ones I applied for."





Our Board of Directors

Bottomless Closet is governed by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors with diverse backgrounds who commit their time and resources to ensure our continued success.

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Saumil Shukla

Treasurer

Judy Hong

Secretary

Diane Kenney

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Mehrnaz Vahid Katherine Elvin Watkin

Melissa Worth

Emeritae

Cynthia Gaston* Jeanne Sigler*

Elizabeth Tighe*

Executive Director

Melissa S. Norden

*Founder

"I felt very welcomed and didn't feel ashamed."



Bottomless Closet thanks Founders and Chairs Emeritae Sheila Lambert and Reva Wurtzberger for their 20 years of service to the organization.

How You Can Help

1 in 4 New York City women is living in poverty. By supporting the work of Bottomless Closet, you can make a difference in the life of a woman in need. Here are just some of the ways you can help:

Donate

Change the life of a woman in need today. You can make a gift online at bottomlesscloset.org or by sending a check to the address below.

Give

Your gently worn work-appropriate clothing, shoes, purses and accessories will enable a woman to see herself in a new way.

Volunteer

You can join our network of dedicated and caring Career Coaches and begin changing lives!