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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark and Dress for Success Announces the Creation of the Professional Women's Group

Employment Retention Program now Offered to Dress for Success Newark Clients

July 9, 2009, Newark, New Jersey – Dress for Success Newark, sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, is the latest affiliate to offer a Professional Women's Group to its clients. The first meeting is on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the New Jersey Institute of Technology Campus Center located at University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102. The group will meet thereafter every third Tuesday of the month. The Professional Women's Group (PWG) is an employment retention program that empowers low-income women to advance in their careers, develop leadership skills, and contribute to their communities. Its mission is to provide a network of employed Dress for Success women a partnership of support, practical information and inspiration to achieve self-defined success in career and life.

Currently, there are over 56 PWG's in the United States and Canada with more than 10,000 members. Membership is open to Dress for Success clients who have successfully gained employment and requires members to attend monthly meetings consisting of two key elements: an expert speaker leading a discussion and a networking period. These meetings cover a variety of topics including communication skills, the "unwritten rules" of the workplace, work/life balance, and financial planning that promote professional development.

The international success of the Professional Women's Group has been tremendous. On average, 75% of the members remain employed and 42% have received a salary increase after joining the PWG. Nearly half of its members have earned a 2 or 4 year college degree. Career coaching, mentoring, and discounts on various products and services are some of the opportunities afforded to PWG members to help them further their personal and professional growth.

"We are thrilled to provide a Professional Women's Group in Newark," said Tina Greene, Executive Director of Dress for Success in Newark. "Our clients took the important first steps in gaining employment. By joining the PWG, these women will be able to aptly confront barriers they encounter on their way to self-sufficiency."

About Dress for Success

Dress for Success is an international not-for profit organization that promotes the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Since starting operations in 1997, Dress for Success has expanded to more than 80 cities in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the UK. To date, Dress for Success has helped more than 400,000 women work towards self-sufficiency. Visit www.dressforsuccess.org to learn more.

About Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark

Catholic Charities is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit social service Agency of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. As one of New Jersey's oldest and largest social service agencies, Catholic Charities aids approximately 100,000 individuals and families each year to gain assistance and a greater sense of self-worth and dignity. Our mission is pursued through a network of caring, effective, and well-managed social service programs within the four counties served by the Archdiocese: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union. Catholic Charities focuses on strengthening and preserving family life while restoring the dignity of each individual. Catholic Charities is a Ministry of the Church, a real expression of the Church's commitment to ease suffering, bring social justice and hope to all, without regard to religion, race, or culture.

For more information about Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark and its programs please visit our website at ccannj.org or call 973-639-6523.