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# THE HEART & THE HANGER

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Volume 2, Issue 2

THE RELIEF BOUTIQUE, INC.

Fall 2012

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## NEW CONNECTIONS: BREAST OASIS



*Shaniqua selects a Breast Oasis Bra*

Thanks to the generous donation from **Breast Oasis** of nearly 100 bras in numerous sizes, The Relief Boutique now offers bras to our clients in addition to professional clothing, shoes and accessories. Breast Oasis ([breastoasis.org](http://breastoasis.org)) is a charitable organization dedicated to supporting communities by providing women who may not be able to afford them with new or clean, certified, gently used bras. Our Board Member and Lead Stylist, Victoria Townes-Griffith, manages the inventory and matches our clients with appropriate bras. A good well-fitting bra is an essential element in helping a woman feel comfortable and confident in her professional attire and we are pleased to offer these high-quality (and beautiful) bras to our clients. We thank the team at **Linda's Bra Salon** for introducing The Relief Boutique to Dr. John Pedersen, the founder of Breast Oasis.

The appreciation of our clients is apparent in their survey comments:

*"I'm always hard to fit and I was lucky to have received two beautiful outfits, shoes and a beautiful bra to start me off to wear to my future interviews ♥"*

*"Thank you for this very beautiful bra!"*

The Relief Boutique is always working on new ways to provide clothing, shoes and accessories to women in need. If you are aware of a company or organization that might assist in furthering our mission, please contact Robyn Young at [robyn@reliefboutique.org](mailto:robyn@reliefboutique.org).

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## Client Milestones

The Relief Boutique has assisted over 310 clients since March 2011. Here are a couple of our client milestones.

### 200<sup>th</sup> Client



*Magaly*

### 300<sup>th</sup> Client



*Felicia with Carolyn Young and Vickie Townes-Griffith*

On April 17, 2012, The Relief Boutique welcomed our 200<sup>th</sup> client, Magaly, from the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation. We welcomed our 300<sup>th</sup> client, Felicia, from the Harlem Children's Zone on September 6, 2012. For helping us reach these milestones, each client received a little fanfare along with their professional clothing!

We look forward to providing **clothing and caring** to more clients in the future and reaching more milestones along the way!

## The Relief Boutique Supports Community Initiatives



*Ben Pearce and Robyn Young at Job Search Workshop*

The Relief Boutique presented at the **2012 Job Search Workshop and Self Marketing Improvement** event held at New York University and sponsored by *Urban Uplift Plus* and *Community Organization Reliable for Everyone (C.O.R.E.)*. The free workshop, held on August 14, 2012, was attended by women and men job seekers and featured free resume review and guidelines from professionals on improving job search methods and interview skills. At the event, Robyn Young and Ben Pearce presented head-to-toe tips on dressing for interviews for women and men entering or re-entering the workforce. Several women, including the conference organizer and facilitator, Emiley Prince-Barry, and Board Member and Lead Stylist, Carolyn Young, modeled appropriate interview attire for the audience members, including suits, dresses and shoes.

The Relief Boutique participated in **Harlem Children's Zone's Phenomenal Women** event for the second year in a row. The Harlem Children's Zone is focused on breaking the cycle of generational poverty by supporting children and their families at all stages. This event, held on March 24, 2012 at the Countee Cullen Community Center, featured free health, wellness, safety and beauty information for community members. Participants enjoyed refreshments, raffle prizes, blood pressure screenings and massages. The Relief Boutique presented information on our services and activities to the community as a member of the Harlem Children's Zone's Resource Network.



*Carolyn Young (r) at Phenomenal Woman Event with community members*

The Relief Boutique was an honoree at the **Hiram Grand Lodge 4th Annual Scholarship and Charity Banquet**, held on May 19, 2012 at Terrace on the Park in Queens, New York. The event featured dinner and a live band for members and guests of the M.W. Hiram Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Inc., along with scholarship and grant awards to individuals and community organizations. At the event, the Lodge presented The Relief Boutique with a Charity Grant Award of \$500.00 to continue our work assisting women in need. We thank the Hiram Grand Lodge for their support.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS



Check out the  
“**News and Events**” page  
on our website at  
**[reliefboutique.org/news\\_events.html](http://reliefboutique.org/news_events.html)**  
for our *current events,*  
*news stories and past issues*  
*of our newsletter.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The Relief Boutique provides *clothing and caring* to women in need in the New York City area thanks to the gifts of new and gently used clothing, shoes, handbags and other accessories from our generous donors. The Relief Boutique is filled with professional clothing appropriate for interviews, jobs and other professional endeavors in all sizes, shapes, colors, and styles that one could imagine.

Women (and men) have traveled from every borough, Westchester County and New Jersey to our Harlem doorstep to bring us clothing items because they know that their donations can make a world of difference to women starting fresh or starting over.



### *Just a few of our special donors:*

- ❖ **Tyra Davis** donated and delivered handmade jewelry from *Tyramade Jewelry* to complement our client's professional outfits.
- ❖ **Fran O'Shea** embodied the spirit of caring by *personally* making a suit and a coat, each a Sacédon Original, after hearing about us on New York 1 News. Her suit is now owned by a grateful client who wore it to her first interview.
- ❖ **Maria Bannon** has organized multiple clothing drives on behalf of The Relief Boutique at her office in Purchase, NY. Because of her efforts, our clients have access to great clothing selections in all sizes.
- ❖ **Janice Martinez** donated jewelry from *Jlani Jewels* to be raffled off at our Spring Fling Happy Hour. She has also donated jewelry for clients of The Relief Boutique.
- ❖ **Melba Rawles Wiggs** has collected and donated clothing, shoes and other items to The Relief Boutique on numerous occasions and she continues to do so.
- ❖ **The Honorable Joanne Quiñones** introduced The Relief Boutique to The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, an organization that has held multiple clothing drives to benefit The Relief Boutique.

We know that our donors are not only passing along clothing and accessories to others in need, but they are also sending a spirit of caring and support with each item. We have received many "lucky interview suits" from women who wish to pass the good luck along to the next. *We wish to thank all of our donors for helping our clients and furthering the mission of The Relief Boutique.*



**We invite you to keep The Relief Boutique in mind if you have items that could benefit women in need who are searching for work. We can always use professional clothing, shoes and accessories, and we have a particular need for:**

- ❖ *Shoes of any size*
- ❖ *Large Handbags*
- ❖ *Professional Clothing size 14 and above*

**Your donation is tax-deductible. Please contact us at [donate@reliefboutique.org](mailto:donate@reliefboutique.org) or (347) 751-5204 for more information.**



## Happy Hours with The Relief Boutique



*Robyn Young at Harlem Tavern*

This spring and summer, The Relief Boutique held our first Happy Hour fundraisers around the city. Happy Hours are a great opportunity to bring together our supporters, both men and women, to enjoy some of New York City's fun bars and lounges and to learn more about the activities of The Relief Boutique.

**Uptown:** The Relief Boutique kicked off the spring with our Spring Fling Happy Hour on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at the **Harlem Tavern**. Our friends, partners and supporters joined us for an evening of cocktails, food, a live Brass Band and exciting raffle prizes from JLani Jewels, Ted's Montana Grill, Harlem Flo Florists and many others. Our guests were also treated to gift bags with complimentary IZZE brand drinks along with beauty and hair care items that were generously provided by Georgy Padgett. Thanks to all who attended our first happy hour!

**Downtown:** We said good-bye to summer with The Relief Boutique's End-of-Summer Happy Hour on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at **121 Fulton Street**. Here, our friends, partners and supporters joined us for an after-work happy hour of complimentary drinks, good company and good fun! Thanks to all who attended!

**Thanks to our volunteers Theresa Lopez and Monique Barney for organizing our Happy Hours!**

*Where will we be next?  
Look out for more Happy Hours soon!*

## WE LOVE SHOES AT THE RELIEF BOUTIQUE!



**Please keep us mind for your shoe donations!**

### THE HEART & THE HANGER

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#### Board of Directors

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Victoria Townes-Griffith  
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