

## Making A Good First Impression

We already know that first impressions can tell a lot about a person. You meet someone, you shake their hand, they smile, you smile back, and you introduce yourself. Psychological research has suggested that even such a simple, basic interchange creates first impressions that are then difficult to change once made. So now imagine yourself homeless and out of work. You have lined up a job interview. How do you prepare for that interview? How can you make that first impression work for you?

The Homeless Family Center staff works one-on-one with each client. Using a combination of business experience, social psychology and street smarts, each client prepares for employment. The staff empowers the client to develop and implement an employment/education plan. They provide residents with supportive and constructive feedback, and show them how to take practical steps to realize their goals. When opportunity knocks, they help the client dress for success and get ready for that very critical job interview.

Did you know that at HFC, there is a special closet of donated clothes set-aside just for clients who are going on a job interview? It contains suits, dresses, shoes, ties, belts, and shoes. All clothing and accessories are sorted by size and color. The clothes come from donations, just like those



being delivered by Lorelei Gentile from the Touch of Class Cleaners. Each year Touch of Class brings their unclaimed clothes for HFC clients to use. Cindy Goetz, a Mary Kay representative, volunteers her time to help female clients work on their make-up.

The staff makes sure that the client has a haircut, a daily journal to track his or her appointments, looks good and feels good about him or herself. If the client gets the job and needs clothing for work, he or she can select a wardrobe from this special closet.

HFC is always in need of younger people's clothes, ties, belts and size 9 plus woman's shoes. In general, the center needs summery articles of clothing. In an average year, over 200 adults are aided by the HFC staff in emergency or transitional programs.

If you have the skills and the interest to help an HFC client secure a job, contact Jodi Simon, the Administrative Assistant at 772-567-5537. Helping to turn a life around will bring a smile to your heart.

The Homeless Family Center provides opportunities for homeless families to end homelessness by achieving self-sufficiency through education, living wages and permanent housing. For more information or a tour of the Homeless Family Center call 772-567-5537 or visit the HFC website at [www.homelessfamilycenter.com](http://www.homelessfamilycenter.com) so you can have more information to decide if and how you want to help.