

JUNE 2003

## Contact Us

We welcome your feedback. If you have comments or suggestions for future events, please e-mail us at [engage.feedback@goldbergekohn.com](mailto:engage.feedback@goldbergekohn.com).

You may also call Goldberg Kohn at 312.201.4000.

## NETWORKING

On Feb. 6, 2003, ENGAGE – a new concept in women-focused organizations – held its kickoff event: a cocktail party to benefit Bottomless Closet, a local organization that helps women on assistance and working poor women. More than 80 attendees brought donations of gently used business clothing and enjoyed an early evening of networking in the Goldberg Kohn offices at 55 E. Monroe Street in Chicago. The occasion included a great deal of energy, lively conversation, laughter, business cards exchanging hands, and even a spa treatment door prize. There was also an exhilarating presentation from Connie Lindsey, senior vice president and group head of personal financial services at Northern Trust, and immediate past president of Bottomless Closet's board of directors. The ENGAGE group primarily used the services of women-owned businesses for the event: Hennessy Design Group, logo and invitation design; Carlyn Berghoff Catering, refreshments; and Spa Space, door prize.

As a follow-up to this first event, Denise Caplan, a Goldberg Kohn principal, introduced the ENGAGE concept at the annual meeting of Meritas, an international organization of independent business law firms to which Goldberg Kohn belongs. Several law firms from around the world have subsequently inquired about starting ENGAGE chapters in their home states and countries.



Women enjoy networking at the ENGAGE kickoff event

## GIVING

by **SUSAN VAN VEEN**, Executive Director of Bottomless Closet

Bottomless Closet, the first welfare-to-work organization of its kind, has served more than 12,000 women since its beginning in 1991. Bottomless Closet provides professional clothing, job readiness, and post-employment training and coaching services to women on assistance and working poor women.

Each Bottomless Closet client may receive up to five outfits, free of charge, and may participate in Saturday morning employment workshops. In the past year, Bottomless Closet received more than 26,000 pieces of clothing and provided services to over 1,300 women. Dressing women to succeed enables them to earn over \$2 an hour more than their counterparts; so, it can make the difference between the \$17,000 job and the \$21,000 job.

It isn't difficult to help. **At the February ENGAGE event, clothing items donated to Bottomless Closet assisted nearly 100 women and had an inventory value of approximately \$20,000.**

Thanks to all who helped make this event a success!



Goldberg Kohn attorneys and staff deliver clothing items collected by ENGAGE to Bottomless Closet on Feb. 7, 2003

## Upcoming Event

The next ENGAGE event, targeted for fall, will focus on how women can support the arts. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

## GETTING EDUCATED

Alphabetically speaking, the third leg of the ENGAGE stool is education. But as working women, we know that education is a primary driver – of success in our chosen fields, of our ability to make meaningful contributions in all areas of our lives and communities, and of the continuing advancement of women everywhere. A central tenet of the ENGAGE mission is to offer women continuing opportunities to learn and to celebrate the value of learning.

### Why is education so important?

*Ask Alicia Coro:* “When we escaped from Cuba, all we could carry was our education.”

*Or ask Ethel Barrymore:* “You must learn day by day, year by year, to broaden your horizon. The more things you love, the more you are interested in, the more you enjoy, the more you are indignant about, the more you have left when anything happens.”

*Or ask Margaret Mead:* “We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet.”

*Or ask the Population Connection:* “Of the 960 million illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are female. Higher levels of women’s education are strongly associated with both lower infant mortality and lower fertility. In poor countries, every additional year of a woman’s schooling is associated with a 5 to 10 percent decline in child deaths.”

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We are fortunate to live in a society where universal education – even universal female education – is regarded as an unquestionable good, a fundamental right. In contrast, in many regions of the world (particularly Africa, the Arab states, and South and West Asia), as few as 60 percent of children receive any formal education. In some individual countries, less than 40 percent of the eligible population is enrolled in school. And girls in these countries may be only 80 percent as likely as their brothers to be sent to school. (Data from 2000 UNESCO conference; percentages have actually improved since initial measurements were taken in 1990.)

Future ENGAGE events and publications will include educational presentations, materials and experiences on a variety of topics pertinent to women’s lives and careers. We welcome your input and challenge you to join with us in exercising your right to learn.