



1200 Foundation awards grants to East Bay nonprofits

From the Globe Community Desk

The 1200 Foundation recently awarded grants of \$5,000 each to two East Bay nonprofit organizations that help low-income wage earners and jobseekers achieve self-sufficiency.

One grant was awarded to Wardrobe for Opportunity, based in Oakland and Pleasant Hill, for its work in providing professional clothing and career support to low-income jobseekers in the Bay Area. The volunteer-based organization works in partnership with over 100 community agencies, hundreds of clothing donors and 200 active volunteers.

In 2006, Wardrobe for Opportunity dressed nearly 2,000 low-income jobseekers. Since 1995, it has prepared more than 13,000 clients for the professional workplace in the Bay Area.

The second grant recipient is Opportunity Junction, based in Antioch, which fights poverty by helping low-income Contra Costa residents gain the competence and confidence to support themselves and their families. Formerly known as OPTIC, the organization offers computer-based business training, paid internships, and alumni services to low-income adults.

Opportunity Junction has already received one grant from the 1200 Foundation.

The foundation is a nonprofit, grant-making organization committed to supporting programs that help low-income individuals and families in Alameda and Contra Costa counties achieve economic self-sufficiency. It awards grants to innovative, successful programs in job skills training, career development support, entrepreneurship and small business creation, and family support services focused on building economically independent families.

To learn more about these organizations you can visit their respective websites at: Wardrobe for Opportunity (<http://www.wardrobe.org>), Opportunity Junction (<http://opportunityjunction.org>) and 1200 Foundation (<http://www.1200foundation.org>).