

ZONTA of Berkshire County is sponsoring a clothing drive to benefit Suit Yourself, a program that provides appropriate attire for people who are interviewing for office and professional jobs.

“Imagine that you have been through some tough times. Your apartment was involved in a fire, your clothing ruined. You escaped an abusive relationship with the clothes on your back. Your money absolutely has to be dedicated to necessities...and until now, a business suit wasn't one. You have an interview opportunity for a really good job...the kind of job that will get you and your family back on solid financial footing. You show up for the interview in your best, but your “best” is clean jeans, and your old shoes are scuffed and worn. You sit in the waiting room across from another applicant, whose attire is professional and appropriate for the job. Even though you are fully qualified, you feel your confidence fade. You try to tuck your feet under the chair so the scuffs won't show. The other person already looks the part, and you know you don't. You feel like you lost the job even before you go into the interview.

Now imagine you are the other candidate. You also have had some really difficult times, but you feel things are looking up. You, too, are well-qualified. One of the Berkshire agencies you work with referred you to Suit Yourself. You made an appointment with the coordinator, who brought you into the Suit Yourself boutique on Tyler Street. She took time to carefully put together a great outfit for you, including shoes and accessories. She talked with you about your upcoming interview and put you at ease. You feel prepared. All this cost you absolutely nothing. When you get the job, you will return to Suit Yourself to get a few more outfits to tide you over until those paychecks start to come in. You will be dressed just as appropriately as your coworkers, thanks to local professionals who have contributed suits and accessories they no longer use.”

From now until April 15, ZONTA of Berkshire County is encouraging all our members to go through your closets. Find those suits that don't fit, you don't like, or you just don't use.

Spread the word to everyone on your e-mail list, your co-workers, your clients, your relatives, your friends, and ask them to donate.

Bring those clean, warm-weather suits ON HANGERS and IN GOOD REPAIR to Goodwill on Tyler Street, Monday through Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm. Use the attached flyers as hanger tags, folding over the edges and stapling the tag to each hanger. That way, Goodwill will know to direct your donation to Suit Yourself, and they also will know where the donation came from. Your donation is tax-deductible. Just ask the attendant for a receipt.

You don't need that suit, but someone who is trying to get a job here truly does need it. Be an accessory to their success!!!!

If you get a chance, stop in to see the Boutique at the Goodwill Donation Center on Tyler Street. Habitat for Humanity helped transform the Goodwill boardroom into an impressive clothing store dedicated to Suit Yourself. Every client has the full services of a coordinator to help them assemble clothing very appropriate for a business setting. They get respect. They get service. And many, many times, they get that job. Your donated suit could be the start of something really good.

March 2012 Anne B. Meczywor, ZONTA of Berkshire County  
Learn more about Suit Yourself at [www.goodwill-berkshires.com/suityourself](http://www.goodwill-berkshires.com/suityourself) .



## **Suit Yourself Clothing Drive**

**Sponsored by**

## **ZONTA of Berkshire County**

Goal: To collect appropriate attire for use by local women and men who are interviewing for jobs in professional settings, and to provide them with work appropriate wear for those first weeks at their NEW job.

When: NOW – April 15, 2012

Where: Goodwill Industries Donation Center, 158 Tyler Street, Pittsfield  
9 am – 3 pm, Monday- Saturday

What: \*Gently used, current styles, appropriate for spring or summer  
Women's Skirt or Pant **Suits**, and Men's **Suits**

\*Accessories, Handbags

\***New or very gently used** office-appropriate footwear.

Please place all cleaned clothing, in good repair, on hangers and STAPLE this hang tag to each hanger. You can drive right up to the donation center doors. Ask the attendant taking your donation for a receipt for your taxes.

**Be an "accessory" to a fellow Berkshire's  
Successful Employment!!!!**