



## Christian Women's Job Corps® Of Greater Columbus

### CWJC Features

The CWJC program has several unique features:

- Mentor teams
- Bible study
- Internships
- Childcare assistance
- Family activities
- Professional closet

### Advisory Council

Velma Bright- Chair  
Rev. Lowell Cliatt  
Vanessa Biggers  
Francine Foster  
Cathy Gilson  
Debbie Rollins  
Phil Shuler  
Sonja Parker  
Dee Armstrong  
Jennifer Johnson  
Linda Phillips

### CWJCGC Staff

Gwen Foster, Director  
Jane Claybrook  
Ruth Howard  
Annie Mazyck  
Cynthia Cain  
Julia Payne  
Letha Pidlaoan  
Annette Traylor  
Gloria Greene

### Mission

To provide a Christian context in which women in need are equipped for life and employment; and a missions context in which women help women.

### Statement of Faith

We believe in the Trinity, God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the Bible as the Word of God. Salvation comes through grace by believing in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, our Savior and Lord. Once saved the Holy Spirit indwells, thereby instructing, guiding, and empowering the individual to follow the mandate of Jesus Christ in daily living.

### Status Report

- Located at Mission Columbus - 3579 Steam Mill Road
- Professional Clothes Closet – Open by Appointment to women in need of clothes for job search
- 12 hr. mentor training
- 2 hour training – instructors and volunteers



### Program Overview

- 16-week program
- 256 hours of instruction
- 32 hrs Jobs for Life® Program
- Computer skills
- Employability Skills
- Job Search Skills
- Reading/writing skills
- Financial management
- Business/Personal Communication Skills
- Parenting skills
- Healthy Relationships
- Self-esteem
- Women health issues
- Hygiene
- Hair/makeup makeovers
- Non verbal communication skills

During the application process, participants are assessed and short term and long-term goals are established. A mentor team is assigned to the participant and a plan to reach goals is formulated. The 10-week CWJCGC program may be in addition to other outside resources (i.e. GED classes) that may be secured for the participant. The participant begins to experience the joy of having some control over the course that her life takes right from the start in this program.

### CWJC Cycle for Participants

- Begin and/or grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, then **celebrate!**
- Complete job-readiness and life-skills program(s), then **celebrate!**
- Fulfill the CWJC purpose, then **celebrate!**
- Give back to the CWJCGC program, then **celebrate!**

**CWJCGC**  
**A Hand up – not a hand-out**

*The Spirit of God sets us apart from the rest*

# **Lydia's Closet**

## **Background:**

Lydia's Closet is a non-profit professional clothing closet operating under the organizational umbrella of the Christian Women's Job Corps of Greater Columbus (CWJCGC). After two years of planning, television & radio on-air personality, Francine Foster saw her vision manifest when Lydia's Closet opened in August 2006. Although Columbus has other clothing banks, Lydia's Closet specializes in offering its clients clothing suitable for the work environment. Initially, our sole purpose was to provide interview suits for CWJCGC participants upon graduation. However, due to the overwhelmingly generous response of women in the Tri-City area, our donations quickly outweighed the need of the participants and we decided to open the closet to any woman in need of suitable clothing to wear during her job search.

The operating hours are currently by appointment only. However, we plan to expand operations and establish regular hours of operation. The increased population of the Columbus area due to the recent surge in residential relocations from the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina to Ft. Benning's BRAC expansions makes the closet a necessity for our community. Due to the high demand, it is critical that we adhere to the basic guidelines for donations, which help us provide quality, up to date clothing that is ready-to-wear right off the rack.

## **HISTORICAL REFERENCE**

Lydia's closet was named for Lydia of Thyatira in the Bible (Acts 16:11). Lydia of Thyatira was a successful business owner, a seller of purple. She was Greek by birth, but a Jew in religion. Her hometown was one of the important headquarters of the famous dye works, which held a secret formula for making the exquisite purple and scarlet dyes used for the robes of kings and princes. Lydia had made such a success of her new venture that she was an identified leader in the city. In addition to her role in the business community, she took her desire to follow the Christian faith very seriously. She eventually became a leader of a prayer group, the only religious meeting for women recorded in the New Testament. She opened her doors to strangers and continued to share her faith with the people who came to purchase her cloth. Lydia's servant leadership and earnest guidance are qualities Lydia's Closet hopes to convey to everyone that comes through the doors for assistance.

The new location in the Mission Columbus Outreach Center (3579 Steam Mill Road Columbus, GA) is the perfect facility for this ministry. Situated at the corner of Buena Vista Road and Steam Mill Road, it is easily accessible to all potential clients. Appointments are available by calling the CWJCGC business office at (706) 507-0253.