



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 14, 2009

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**Unique Thrift Store and Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett Celebrate Third Annual \$100,000 Donation To More Than 80 Nonprofits, Schools At 'Unique Fashion Show'**

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***Unique Closet Gift Certificate Program Enables County's Underprivileged Adults and Children To Obtain Quality Clothing and Household Items at No Charge***

**Silver Spring, Md.** – Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and County Councilmember Nancy Floreen joined Unique Thrift Store managers, customers and representatives of area nonprofit community organizations at a 'Unique Fashion Show' Wednesday, Dec. 9, to celebrate the success and continuation of the Unique Closet Program. The program is an annual \$100,000 initiative that has provided approximately 10,000 underprivileged residents their choice of needed clothing and household items free of charge. Models from Crethaven Elementary School, Housing Opportunities Commission, Jewish Council for the Aging, Through the Kitchen Door, Abilities Network, Family Services, Inc., Mental Health Association, and Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, participated to showcase affordable and stylish outfits they received from the store.

"Unique Thrift Store's Unique Closet Program is part of our commitment to being socially responsible by serving the needs of the members of our community," added Dave Kloeber, principal, Unique Thrift Store. "We are especially proud to add new community partners to the program so it's available to more individuals who deserve the opportunity to shop with dignity."

This is the third year the Unique Thrift Store's Unique Closet Program is contributing \$100,000 in gift certificates to community organizations and local public schools, which have been pre-qualified as having a disproportionate number of needy families by County officials. The leadership within each organization and school is responsible for identifying and distributing the gift certificates, which then are redeemed for clothing, household goods, books and other necessities at Unique Thrift Stores in the area. From winter coats and school supplies for children to extra linens and pots and pans for people in group homes, the Unique Closet Program makes an important difference in the lives of individuals.

(MORE)

## ***Unique Fashion Show/2***

In the first two years of operation, the number of organizations and schools participating in the Unique Closet program has grown exponentially to include more than 80 benefitting groups, including 55 Montgomery County Public elementary, middle and high schools, the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, Montgomery County Child Welfare Services, Abilities Network, Casa de Maryland, Interfaith Works, Family Services, Inc., Jewish Council for the Aging, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, Jewish Social Service Agency, Jubilee Association, Lead4Life, Inc., Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, Montgomery County Family Justice Center, Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Police, Montgomery Housing Partnership, National Children's Center, Service Coordination, Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition, The Dwelling Place, Through the Kitchen Door, Mental Health Association, and SEEC.

A complete list of Unique Closet Program participants is attached. For more information about Unique Thrift Store's Unique Closet program, contact Ellen Bogage at (301) 370-2568.

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*Unique Thrift Store is proud to serve the local community by providing a wide range of affordable, quality merchandise to accommodate the needs of its customers. Unique Thrift Store opened its doors in the Hillandale Shopping Center in August 2006. Additional Unique Thrift Store locations include Wheaton, Maryland and five other Unique Thrift and Value Village Stores in the Washington, D.C. area. Unique Thrift Store actively supports the community by partnering with local charities and providing almost 400 full-time jobs and benefits to local Montgomery County residents. For more information, visit [www.uniquethriftstoremd.com](http://www.uniquethriftstoremd.com).*



## 2009 Unique Closet Program Participants

Abilities Network  
Casa de Maryland  
Interfaith Works

(formerly Community Ministry  
of Montgomery County)

Family Services, Inc.

- Early Head Start
- Healthy Families Montgomery
- Montgomery Station
- Strengthening Families Program

Housing Opportunities Commission  
of Montgomery County

Jewish Council for the Aging

Jewish Foundation for Group Homes

Jubilee Association

Lead4Life, Inc.

Mental Health Association

- Bridges to Pals
- Kensington Wheaton Youth Services
- MOMS Program
- N\*Common Program

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Montgomery County Family Justice Center

Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's  
Mental Health

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human  
Services

Montgomery County Child Welfare Services

Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission

Montgomery County Police

Montgomery Housing Partnership

National Children's Center

SEEC

Service Coordination

Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition

The Dwelling Place, Inc.

Through the Kitchen Door

Montgomery County Public Schools-  
Department of Student Services

- Albert Einstein High School
- Arcola Elementary School
- Argyle Middle School
- Benjamin Banneker Middle School
- Bells Mills Elementary School
- Briggs Chaney Middle School
- Broad Acres Elementary School
- Brookhaven Elementary School

Montgomery County Public Schools-  
Department of Student Services (continued)

- Burnt Mills Elementary School
- Cabin John Middle School
- Cannon Road Elementary School
- Clarksburg High School
- Clopper Mill Elementary School
- Cresthaven Elementary School
- Daly Elementary School
- Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School
- Eastern Middle School
- Farquhar Middle School
- Forest Oak Middle School
- Fox Chapel Elementary School
- Francis Scott Key Middle School
- Frost Middle School
- Georgian Forest Elementary School
- Kemp Mill Elementary School
- Kingsview Middle School
- Lakelands Park Middle School
- Little Bennett Middle School
- Mario Loiederman Middle School
- Montgomery Village Middle School
- New Hampshire Estates Middle School
- Newport Mill Middle School
- Northwest High School
- Oak View Elementary School
- Page Elementary School
- Pine Crest Elementary School
- Rachel Carson Elementary School
- Robert Frost Middle School
- Roberto Clemente Middle School
- Rolling Terrace Elementary School
- Roscoe R. Nix Elementary School
- Sargent Shriver Elementary School
- Shady Grove Middle School
- Sherwood High School
- Spark M Matsunaga Elementary School
- Strathmore Elementary School
- Summit Hall Elementary School
- Takoma Park Middle School
- Thomas Edison High School
- Twinbrook Elementary School
- Weller Road Elementary School
- Westover Elementary School
- Wheaton Woods Elementary School
- White Oak Middle School
- Wootton High School
- W.T. Page Elementary School