

Greenest Cleaners collect clothes for job-hunting women

By LEETA-ROSE BALLESTER

Manuel Alvarado, owner of Greenest Cleaners for You, has partnered with Dress for Success, the international group dedicated to improving the lives of women. Alvarado's two cleaners are accepting donations of gently used women's work attire, which will then be treated and given to Dress for Success. Those who donate will receive a discount on services at Greenest Cleaners.

Alvarado had reached out to Renee Surcouf, executive director of Dress for Success San Jose, to see how he could put his two shops to use.

"We set something up because she had a lot of demand in



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELINE RAMSEYER

Greenest Cleaners for You in San Jose is accepting career clothing that will then be cleaned and donated to Dress For Success San Jose.

the South Bay," Alvarado said. "What we came up with was that I would clean and press and then she could pick up" the donations that clients can then wear to job interviews.

Donors will receive a 25 percent discount on cleaning when they bring dresses, blouses, suits and other work attire to the Greenest Cleaners for You at either 14710 Camden Ave. in the Cambrian

area or 5029 Almaden Expressway in Almaden Valley.

Surcouf said that the South Bay location for Dress for Success opened two years ago.

"It's fairly new, but it's growing quickly with the help of Silicon Valley's community," she said. "We want to provide as many drop-off places as possible."

The ultimate goal of Dress for Success, Surcouf said, is to help disadvantaged women become independent by offering them career services, a support system and work attire.

She said it's important to make it as easy as possible for donors to become involved.

Alvarado said he was inspired to find ways for his business to

give back because of things he has learned in school and in life.

"I studied sociology, so I know a lot about disadvantages that we have in this country," he said.

He also revealed that his mother, who is also in the cleaning business, was a single mother and "didn't always have it easy."

"We thought it would be a good thing to do," Alvarado said about his charitable efforts.

Greenest Cleaners for You also accepts coats and jackets year-round. As with the Dress for Success donations, Alvarado's cleaners make the coats and jackets presentable and then distributes them to local charities.

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Tutoring program elevates local students

By LEETA-ROSE BALLESTER

Elevate Tutoring, a "pay it forward" program that aims to lift both the tutors and students, is celebrating a nearly two-year alliance with Downtown College Prep charter school.

Bob Schaffer, founder of the nonprofit organization, says the program provides support for college students in need. These individuals receive training, then tutor younger students. They are paid for their time. Currently, Elevate is able to pay eight college students.

"Last year we had a student working 30 hours a week on minimum wage, and they were able to quit their job and concentrate on school," Schaffer said.

Students from San Jose State University and Santa Clara University are teamed with middle and high schoolers from Downtown College Prep and Breakthrough Silicon Valley for a total of 150 hours during the academic year.

"My passion has always been teaching," Schaffer said. "The more I looked at the landscape [of academics], I saw the gap between lower and higher levels."

Elevate Tutoring provides \$5,550 scholarships to each college student in return for a year-long commitment to tutor younger students. The training that the tutors receive boosts their self-



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BREAKTHROUGH SILICON VALLEY

Tutor Peter Soto works on pre-calculus studies with Lincoln High School student Melanie Reis. Elevate Tutoring partners with Breakthrough Silicon Valley and Downtown College Prep to connect in-need college students with younger students.

esteem and that of the students they tutor, Schaffer said.

"One of the things to focus on is listening to the [younger] students," he said. "It leverages the listening component so the tutee can guide himself to the answer."

Adriana Sanchez Hurtado, a former tutor in the program, said joining Elevate gave her more choices when she was struggling financially while attending Santa Clara University.

"I was trying to figure out other options and one was taking time off from school, so having Bob give me an opportunity to be part of Elevate was like a miracle to

me," she said.

During her time with the program, Sanchez Hurtado said she not only learned how to be a successful tutor but also decided to take her college career to the next level.

"I realized how much I really enjoy working with students, and that is why I have decided to get my master's degree in higher education in order to continue helping underprivileged students," she said.

Amber Glover, a math teacher at Downtown College Prep, said she has seen how the school's partnership with Elevate has had an impact on her students.

"I am impressed with the level of sensitivity, professionalism and respect these tutors have for my students," Glover said at a fundraiser for the organization. "Elevate is committed to serving the community, and I hope to continue our partnership."

Applications to become a tutor or tutee can be found at elevatetutoring.org. However, Schaffer warned, available spots for both fill up quickly.

"There's a huge need in San Jose," he said.

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OBITUARY

Delos 'Ace' Bagby

Longtime Monte Sereno resident Delos M. "Ace" Bagby, who had an impressive 33-year career as the superintendent of the Cambrian Elementary School District, died peacefully on May 19, surrounded by his family. He was 95.

He was born on Sept. 29, 1918, in Wichita, Kansas, the son of Shirley Simpson and Nina (Meeckstroth) Bagby. The family moved to California in 1920 and he spent his childhood in San Francisco and Seaside.

Mr. Bagby earned his bachelor of arts degree and teaching/administration credential from San Jose State, where he played for the undefeated Spartan football team in 1939. It was at San Jose State where he acquired the nickname "Ace."

He married Barbara Stutzman in 1942 in Pacific Grove and they both taught in the Monterey area before moving to Los Gatos in 1944, when he took on the role as the superintendent of the Cambrian School District, which at the time was a five-room school with 179 students.

During his tenure, the district grew to accommodate 5,777 students in nine schools: Ida



Bagby

Price Middle School and eight elementary schools, Steindorf, Metzler, Farnham, Sartorette, Hoguc, Farnham, Bohnett and—the school named for him and dedicated

on April 12, 1958—D.M. Bagby Elementary School.

According to his family, "he pioneered programs for special education, campus libraries, new math and outdoor education," and he entertained the children "by entering a classroom and executing a perfect handstand on the teacher's desk."

Mr. Bagby was predeceased by his wife Barbara in 2011 and is survived by his daughter Bobbie Vicerra and her husband George, his son Joshua, his sister Lorraine Congdon and many nieces and nephews.

As per his request, no funeral or memorial service will be held. Donations in his name may be made to D. M. Bagby Elementary School, 1840 Harris Ave., San Jose, CA 95124 (note, "In memory of D.M. Bagby" on the check). Visit acebagby.wordpress.com.