

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Labor Commissioner's Office Donates Confiscated Clothes to Charity

Los Angeles—In time for the holidays, the California Labor Commissioner's Office has donated more than \$16,500 worth of clothing to the Shelter Partnership Inc., a non-profit agency that operates the S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank. The clothing was confiscated during enforcement actions involving garment industry contractors and manufacturers operating illegally in the Los Angeles area.

The inventory—more than 240 sweaters, shirts and pants, as well as sportswear—will be distributed to many of the 180 homeless and domestic violence shelters served by Shelter Partnership Inc.

"The DIR is pleased that these garments will help keep people warm during the coldest time of the year," said Christine Baker, Director of the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). The Labor Commissioner's Office, also known as the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), is a division within DIR.

Representatives of the Labor Commissioner's Office and DIR's Labor Enforcement



Pictured above: A volunteer sorts through donated clothing at the Shelter Partnership on Dec. 16

Task Force (LETF) uncovered the garment producing-businesses that were not registered with the state, and were in violation of its labor laws.

"For the fourth year in a row, we get to do something at the holidays that accomplishes two valuable functions," said Labor Commissioner Julie A. Su. "We get brand new clothes to those most in need, and we underscore the consequences to underground employers who undermine California's economy by disregarding its laws."

This year's donation to Shelter Partnership Inc. continues an annual tradition of giving. Last year the Labor Commissioner's office donated more than \$33,000 worth of clothing, and more than \$14,000 worth was given in 2012 to Shelter Partnership. In

2011, garments valued at an estimated \$15,000 were donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County.

Legally, the confiscated clothes must be placed in storage and disposed of or destroyed after 45 days. However, the items can be donated to non-profit organizations, as long as the organizations agree not to re-sell the items. The Shelter Partnership accepts and distributes these items to charity, and provides space to store the items until they are ready for donation.

“We are grateful for the relationship we have with the Department of Industrial Relations, and for the clothing that we receive from them that will benefit the non-profit agencies we serve,” said Executive Director Ruth Schwartz.

Among its wide-ranging enforcement responsibilities, the Labor Commissioner’s Office inspects workplaces for wage and hour violations, adjudicates wage claims, enforces prevailing wage rates and apprenticeship standards in public works projects, investigates retaliation complaints, issues licenses and registrations for businesses and educates the public on labor laws.

The most recent information related to California labor laws is available is available on the [DIR website](#). Employees with work-related questions or complaints may call the California Workers’ Information Hotline at (866) 924-9757 for recorded information in English and Spanish on a variety of work-related topics.

For media inquiries contact Erika Monterroza at (510) 286-1164 or Peter Melton at (510) 286-7046.



The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). Non-media inquiries can contact DIR’s Communications Call Center at 1-844-LABOR-DIR (1-844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.