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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD FINDS JOBS  
55 LAID-OFF WORKERS AT SOON-TO-OPEN ROSS STORE**

*Chair Josie Gonzales, County of San Bernardino Fifth District Supervisor celebrates  
achievement at ribbon-cutting ceremony*

San Bernardino, CA (March 4, 2011) –When Omar Castro happened upon an empty warehouse marked as a soon-to-open Ross Dress For Less Store, he thought of a way to help. Representing the business service unit for the County’s Workforce Investment Board, Castro offered to recruit and hire the staff needed for the store’s opening only a few weeks away.

“Our job placement experts were already working with a group of trained retail workers recently laid off,” Castro said. “These candidates have the skills and experience Ross needed, so we facilitated the hiring of 55 staff in a short time frame.”

Under the purview of the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors, the Workforce Investment Board uses federal Workforce Investment Act funding to provide recruitment services for employers at no cost and a facility for employers to conduct interviews with pre-screened candidates. Other services for businesses include subsidized training programs, employer workshops and human resource support. The business service unit’s goal is help the county’s businesses maintain employment levels and keep job opportunities available for the county’s residents.

The open positions were posted to the County’s online job portal ([www.csb-win.org](http://www.csb-win.org)) and a recruitment fair was held on February 18 at a local Employment Resource Center. Qualified candidates were pulled from job seekers already enrolled with the Employment Resource Center, as well as through outreach to the public.

“We are proud of the fast response from our County’s Workforce Investment Board,” said Chair Josie Gonzales, County of San Bernardino Fifth District Supervisor. “This is a prime example of our County investing Workforce Investment Act funding to match workers with employment opportunities.”

“This was a win-win situation,” said Sandy Harmsen, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board and Director of the Workforce Development Department of San Bernardino

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County. “Our team helped the employer save time and money by finding and hiring trained and skilled candidates. In the process, we put more laid-off job seekers back to work in our county.”

The new Ross Store will have its grand opening at 9:00 a.m., March 5 at 781 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in San Bernardino, CA. Chair Josie Gonzales, County of San Bernardino Fifth District Supervisor is expected to be present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

For more information, employers and job seekers can inquire through the County’s Employment Resource Centers at (800) 451-JOBS.

### **About the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County**

The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors. The Board strives to strengthen the skills of the County’s workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations. The County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors is committed to providing county resources which generate jobs and investment.

The Workforce Investment Board, through the County of San Bernardino’s Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the County’s Employment Resource Centers (ERCs) and Business Resource Centers (BRCs). The ERCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life, and the BRCs support and provide services to the County’s businesses including employee recruitment.

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