

News to Suit You

SUMMER

A NEWSLETTER FROM DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

2022



"I am excited to become a part of this community. They gave me hope and confidence to move forward in my life."



"DFS Houston is a beautiful organization with the resources to give professional women the ability to showcase their backgrounds."



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the women we serve on their paths forward. Since 1998, we have collaborated with our community partners to empower more than 46,000 women on their journeys to achieving self-sufficiency.

To further alleviate barriers to employment and adapt to our current economic environment, we have a new avenue to access our programs. If a woman reaches out directly to us without a referral, we will work with her to determine if she qualifies for our job search or professional attire programs. This effort is in tandem with our more than 140 community partners who continue to refer women to us. Learn more on page 3.

Our hybrid model is in process, and the women appreciate the flexibility in accessing our resources. Pages 2 to 5 illustrate the impact our programs continue to make for our clients and their families. We have expanded our Women Veterans Program to offer financial literacy; continued to enhance our mind-body workshops for women as they navigate these ever-changing times; and been there for our job searchers as they transition



back into the current work environment.

Thank you to the Houston community for supporting our March giving campaign, Her Path Forward – Presented by Chevron. A special thank you to the DFS Houston Board of Directors and Advisory Council members, Sydney and Jeff Shellebarger, for each providing a \$10,000 match. I am pleased to share that we exceeded our goal and raised more than \$170,000 for our programs! See page 6 for details.

Please join event chairs Monisa Cline, Myrtle Jones, and Linda Padon on Saturday, October 22 for *Rendezvous with DFSH*. We

are excited to be back at The Revaire for this event and have incredible chefs participating. See page 6 for event details.

Thank you all for being the voices for the women and families of Dress for Success Houston in our community. Because of your engagement, we will continue to provide a community and network of support for the women we serve.

With gratitude,

Lauren Levicki Courville

LAUREN LEVICKI COURVILLE
PRESIDENT

24 YEARS

OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES, THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU.



\$154,500

IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO

64

WOMEN OR THEIR CHILDREN

51%

OF WOMEN SUITED GAINED EMPLOYMENT

YTD IN 2022

TO DATE IN 2022,

1,039

WOMEN

SUCH AS PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE, CAREER EDUCATION, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND VETERANS PROGRAMS.

HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY

4,557

UNITS OF SERVICE

482

WOMEN SUPPORTED THROUGH

60+

WORKSHOPS IN OUR 2022 HYBRID MODEL



Only 8% of charities nationally evaluated have received at least **eight** consecutive 4-star evaluations.

1,500+

VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014

218

VOLUNTEERS HAVE DONATED YTD

2,127

HOURS IN 2022

107

H-E-B GIFT CARDS TO VETERANS

MORE THAN

20

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Client Success Story

MADELEINE

I am officially a flight attendant at United Airlines after three months of intense training. I have to give credit where credit is due - thank you to the wonderful people at Dress for Success Houston for all their generosity, encouragement, and warmth. With their assistance, I was able to land a job which quickly led to better and ultimately, my dream job. Thank you for supporting me through this journey #beyondthesuit.



Self-Referral Program

In April, Dress for Success Houston began rolling out the Self-Referral Program as a new entry point for women to receive services. This program allows women to contact the agency directly for eligibility. This new initiative, along with the referrals from our member

organizations, continues to erode the barriers facing women and enables us to provide continued support with job search, professional attire, interview preparation, and more. At mid-year, 142 women have been empowered through our Self-Referral Program.



“I was in awe of how beautiful the building is and how welcoming everyone was. It made me feel special and well taken care of.”

— CRISTI



“When entering DFS Houston, I felt overwhelmed by the immense generosity and support. I am grateful my personal shopper was so helpful with my decisions.”

— LUISA



“Dress for Success Houston has given me the confidence to present myself authentically and highlight my experience in a concise way. I am very excited and hopeful.”

— LEATHA



Get Involved

Women of Wardrobe (WOW), our young professionals' group, hosted a membership social at Patterson Park and will close out the summer with its annual Tootsies Summer Soirée on August 17. We would love to see you there!

This summer also kicks off our eighth year participating in the Chevron Houston Marathon's Run for a Reason program. Join our charity team in one

of three races: 5K, half, or full marathon this January and cross the finish line with the women we serve. All participants receive a team t-shirt and “refuel” bag. Your participation and fundraising efforts support DFS Houston's health and wellness initiatives.

Learn more about joining WOW and Run for a Reason here →



Job Search Program

I received a job offer from Genesys Works and accepted! Thank you so much for all your help along with the ladies in my Tuesday Job Search Teams.

—CHARON



without human resources contribute wonderfully! Since January, we have completed over 310 units of service with programs or events in our Job Search Programs. We look forward to continuing to assist our women during their career journey.

Job Search programming is back in the building, and we continue offering programs on Zoom. Each week our women gather for the Job Search Teams, check in with each other, and create short-term goals. Some of the best ideas come from other participants. In response to our client survey, the Harris County Public Library hosted a pop-up with our women to share available internet

and computer resources. Each client received a personal hotspot at no cost and laptops were available for check-out.

We have had an increase in volunteers training for our Job Search Programs. These programs include Resume Review, moderating Job Search Teams, Mock Interviews, and more. Volunteers are vital to our programming, and those with or



Women Veterans Program

OVER 1,500 WOMEN VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014



The Women Veterans Program has had a strong start to the year and over 170 women veterans have participated in programming. The primary focus continues to be on overall wellbeing with topics such as Coping with Anxiety, Creating Space for Self-Love, and Being Well: Mind, Body & Spirit. We were also able to offer a Veteran Affairs Q&A Panel with representatives from the Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center.

In the spring, the Women Veterans Program hosted its first-ever Financial Literacy Series. During the six-week course, two financial coaches taught a cohort of veterans the importance of financial health and understanding monetary affairs. Eight veterans successfully completed the program and are now more confident in their financial knowledge and ability to manage their money.

The Financial Literacy Series was life-changing for me. I had no idea how to start a budget, and it was affecting me financially. I feel like a weight has been lifted. This helped not only me but also my family.

—SHANQUETTA, US ARMY VETERAN



PWG

THE PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP
ONGOING PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

284 CURRENT MEMBERS



The webinars are a wonderful opportunity to hear from others regarding relatable experiences and how to overcome them and gain confidence to take action in certain areas of my life.

—MARIA

The Professional Women's Group has had a remarkable first half of the year. Members are learning how to prioritize self-care as a tool for personal and professional growth. Our Mind-Body series is an ongoing discussion on how to have a variety of healthy outlets to manage stress and anxiety. Self-care tools shared include mindfulness, movement, growth through gardening and simple journaling. In addition to focused self-care, meeting topics have included Understanding the Unwritten Rules of the Workplace, Strategic Goal Setting, and Combatting Imposter Syndrome.

All meetings are offered hybrid to engage PWG members who would otherwise be unable to attend because of schedule or transportation conflicts. Along with our meeting format, our programming also underwent some modernization. The mentoring program now offers a virtual group option with mentor leaders along with a traditional, one-on-one option. The Professional Women's Group will continue evolving as we meet the needs of our members.



Congratulations to our 12 women who completed a 5K with our training partner, Bel Inizio (pictured above). This group of women (and more) will go to train for the We Are Houston 5K in January.

For more information on how you can support their health and wellness goals look here →



Thank you for the self-care workshop. I struggle to follow through on my grand ideas. You encouraged me to be kind to myself and start small. This has helped me avoid getting discouraged and take the necessary next steps. Thank you for the guidance and support!

—MARLA





PLEASE JOIN US

SATURDAY 10.22.22 from 6:30PM to 11PM

THE REVAIRE 7122 Old Katy Road, Houston, Texas 77024

AUCTION CHAIRS
Susie Cunningham, Kate Dearing Fowler, Katherine Orellana Ross, Monica Richards

EVENT CHAIRS
Monisa Cline, Myrtle Jones, Linda Padon

For more information, please contact Kelly Moneyban at kelly@dfshouston.org

CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF EMPOWERING THE WOMEN OF HOUSTON

Rendezvous with DFSH

CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF EMPOWERING HOUSTON WOMEN

Thank you to our confirmed culinary concepts as of July 10: A Fare Extraordinaire, Arnaldo Richards' Picos, Bandolina, Chivos, CIEL Restaurant + Lounge, Coppa Osteria, Daily Gather, Flora, Gratify, Guard and Grace, Hungry's, Liberty Kitchen, Loro, LuLoo's Bake Shop, Michael's Cookie Jar, Pascha Nikkei, Relish, Slowpokes, Sweet Bee Bakehouse, Ten Sushi & Cocktails, and Van Leeuwen Ice Cream.

Legacy Giving

PLANNING FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

On April 21, 2022, the 60 founding Legacy Giving Society members and their guests celebrated their incredible commitment at an appreciation dinner. This group has pledged more than 3.1 million dollars to ensure future generations of women will be impacted by Dress for Success Houston's life-changing programs. The highlight of the evening was Yemi Brown, a current PWG member,



sharing her inspirational story of empowerment, resiliency, and success.



Thank you, Nancy Levicki, DFS Houston Co-Founder and Director of Legacy Giving, for your never-ending devotion to the women and families of Houston. If you would like to be a part of the Legacy Giving Society, please contact Nancy, nancy@dfshouston.org.



Her Path Forward

OUR ANNUAL MARCH GIVING CAMPAIGN

With support from the community, *Her Path Forward* raised more than \$170,000 for the women we serve. We also received an incredible amount of professional attire from our supporters - collecting over 15,000 items of clothing and receiving over 3,000 high-need items on our Amazon Wish List. How do you handle this volume of donations? Volunteers! In March, 97 individual volunteers contributed 372 volunteer hours to sort, tag, and organize donations.



THANK YOU HER PATH FORWARD SPONSORS



PowHER Hour

The second annual PowHER Hour, presented by Four Seasons Hotel Houston, was a huge success! Our partners at Total Wine & More and J.Landa Jewelry helped us raise more than \$26,000 while enjoying a curated wine tasting, food pairings, and heads or tails game.



THANK YOU POWHER HOUR SPONSORS



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2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT

Lauren Levicki Courville



AGENCY NEEDS

*Our highest inventory needs are professional shoes and handbags.
 The donation circle is open on Fridays from 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.*



Tribute

STANFORD ALEXANDER

On June 28, Stanford Alexander passed away peacefully. He and his wife Joan played an instrumental role in the genesis of the Dress for Success Houston. The Alexanders are known for their philanthropic efforts, and we are especially grateful for their immense support for the past 24 years.

DFS Houston began on April 3, 1998, with co-founders Susie Cunningham and Nancy Levicki suiting women from the back of a suburban. On August 4, Nancy reached out to Joan and Stanford Alexander to find donated space from their company, Weingarten Realty. With guidance from Joan, Nancy completed a grant, and DFS Houston officially moved into 1,500 square feet at 45N and W. Little York by August 8.

The Alexanders' passion and commitment to the women and families of DFS Houston created the opportunity for the organization to thrive and achieve economic stability by purchasing land and building a permanent home. They gave the lead major gift in 2011 to ensure we would achieve this goal and continue to empower thousands of women each year.

Stanford lives on in many ways. He impacted the Houston community with Joan by his side making the city a better place for all of us. His spirit continues to soar, and we thank him as we stand on the incredible foundation he established at 3310 Eastside Street.

We honor his life and legacy in every woman and child served at DFS Houston.

