

News to Suit You

SUMMER

A NEWSLETTER FROM DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

2020



“More important than the suit, was the invaluable knowledge I was provided at DFSH.”



“I love all DFSH has to offer. I feel this will be a great, encouraging program for me.”



Dear Friends,
 What an extraordinary time we are living in – while the future may be unclear, we continue our daily lives while balancing our “new normal” of social distancing and all it entails. We are excited and hopeful, however, to be exploring new ideas and opportunities for creativity which we may have otherwise not pursued.



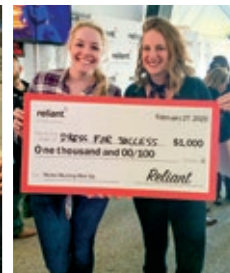
I am pleased to share because of supporters like you, Dress for Success Houston (DFSH) has continued to serve our clients by offering a wide range of virtual educational programming, outreach calls, curbside suiting, scrub and uniform distribution as well as meal kits to the women and their families (pages 4-5). We are fortunate to continue providing the programs we have always offered, as well as these additional relief efforts to ensure the current needs of our women are met. The ability to pivot quickly and provide these services is due to our community of supporters, as DFSH is not government or United Way funded.



The safety of our staff, clients and

constituents remains our highest priority, therefore our Board of Directors has made the decision to transition our two annual fall events into one celebration this year. While remaining mindful of our community’s wellbeing, our goal is also to ensure the funds raised are able to go further for the women who are impacted the most during this pandemic and subsequent economic crisis. Please see further details on the back cover. We hope you will join us this year!

Recent events have us reflecting even more on how we can support our women. Our



mission is to empower women to achieve self-sufficiency while breaking down barriers regardless of race, sexual orientation, religion and socioeconomic status. Together, we can do more. Together, we can do better. Join the conversation by staying educated. Learn more about DFSH’s initiatives on page 2.

With heartfelt thanks,

Lauren Levicki Courville

LAUREN LEVICKI COURVILLE
 PRESIDENT



Run for a Reason

JANUARY 18-19, 2020

For the past eight years, DFSH has partnered with the

Houston Marathon Committee in the Run for a Reason campaign. Run for a Reason is the charity component of the Chevron Houston Marathon which allows participants to fundraise for a local charity. There were three races held over January 18-19: We Are Houston 5K, Aramco Houston Half Marathon, and Chevron

Houston Marathon.

This year, we had 48 PWG members and their children compete in these races on Team DFSH. These women trained individually and in bootcamps throughout the year to prepare their minds and bodies for a race to remember. On race day, they gathered to run/walk together to continue to be each other's network of support, both in the race and in life. Congratulations, ladies, on your hard work and this major accomplishment!

Earning the Houston Double medal for completing the 5K and Half Marathon, despite multiple autoimmune disorders, showed me I can achieve anything.

—APRIL



Join the Conversation

Dress for Success Houston (DFSH) was founded on the belief that the socioeconomic inequalities that have plagued women in our society for centuries need to be confronted and overturned. In 2019, 47% of the women DFSH served were black with a total of 75% representing

women of color. Our mission for the past 22 years has been to empower and support all women, and we recognize together as a community we can do more.

Subscribe to our email list at houston@dressforsuccess.org to receive resources relating to the demographics we

serve and additional ways you can support the community. DFSH will continue to educate our staff, expand community partnerships to include more black-owned businesses and continue to foster a safe place of open discussion amongst our clients.

Veterans Program

OVER 1,300 WOMEN VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014

Our February veterans event focused on wellness and nutrition, with a presentation on mindful eating and a yoga class facilitated by Lucia Harmeling, owner of Cheerfully Nourished. JuiceWell also provided healthy juicing tips and samples.

The NAPE Expo Charities Fund, created to honor and empower veterans in their adjustment back to civilian life, generously awarded DFSH's Veterans Program with a \$75,000 grant at their annual luncheon in February, held in conjunction with the

NAPE Summit, the oil and gas industry's leading tradeshow. This contribution will allow DFSH to continue to impact women veterans transitioning into the workforce.



22 YEARS

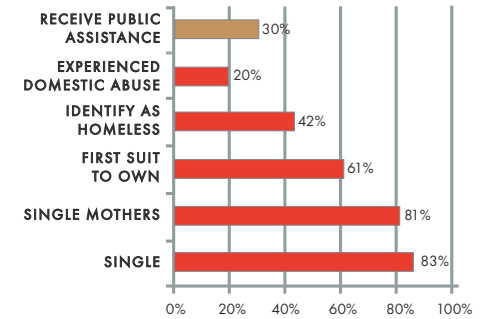
OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES, THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY ALL BECAUSE OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU.

1,300+ VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014

1,000 VOLUNTEERS DONATED 13,350 HOURS IN 2019

64% OF WOMEN SUITED GAINED EMPLOYMENT IN 2019

DEMOGRAPHICS OF WOMEN ENTERING DFSH PROGRAMS



TOP EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRIES

25% Healthcare
10% Education
10% Social Services



Only 9% of charities nationally evaluated have received at least six consecutive 4-star evaluations.



Belinda | Success Story

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, ALDINE ISD

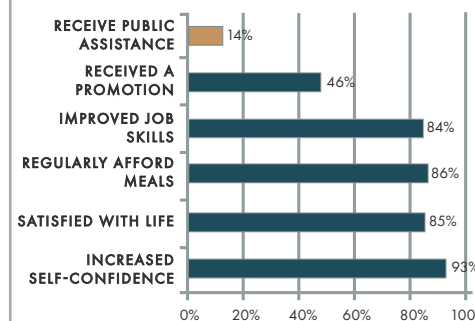
While earning her Bachelor's degree at Texas Southern University, Belinda was referred to DFSH by the TSU's career center. As many women share, Belinda didn't know what to expect when she first arrived at DFSH. She certainly didn't know about PWG, its vast programs, and how life-changing it would be for her. Being a PWG member has given Belinda confidence and concrete skills for her personal and professional development.

Belinda works as a substitute teacher in Aldine ISD and is taking full advantage of the programs PWG offers including scholarships. As an Altman-Goldstein Scholarship recipient, Belinda is

currently working toward earning her teaching certificate and becoming a full-time elementary school teacher. The financial relief from this scholarship allows Belinda to focus on her wellness goals as well as paying off her student loans.

Belinda recently completed her first 5K in January with Team DFSH as part of Chevron Houston Marathon weekend— checking off a major milestone from her bucket list. In the past, Belinda admits to giving up when things got too hard. After participating in Fit4Success and training at DFSH, she has a new outlook on taking care of herself.

AFTER THREE YEARS OF PARTICIPATING IN DFSH PROGRAMS



IN 2019, 3,900 WOMEN

WERE IMPACTED BY 17,500 UNITS OF SERVICE

SUCH AS PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE, CAREER EDUCATION, JOB SEARCH COURSES AND VETERANS PROGRAMS.





PROVIDING HOPE BEYOND THE SUIT FOR 22 YEARS

IMPACT REPORT OF THE PANDEMIC ON DFSH CLIENTS

90% EMPLOYED
PRIOR TO PANDEMIC

65%
LACK EMERGENCY SAVINGS

36%
FRONTLINE WORKERS

59%
JOBS IMPACTED

41%
LESS THAN \$500
IN BANK

43%
FOOD INSECURITY



48%
HAVE CHILDREN
AT HOME

“Volunteering at DFSH is truly rewarding. It allows me the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.”

— BARBARA

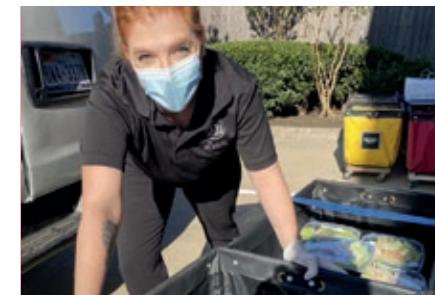


“Because of the added services and support of DFSH, I am able to sustain my family's care. Your benevolence is greatly appreciated!”

— MICHELLE

“I believe financial literacy remains very important. I appreciated the presenter incorporating today's crisis into the presentation, as well as adding information about the stimulus. I also liked how she explained budgeting basics.”

— DENISE



“I love the fact that while during the days of social distancing, DFSH is still interacting and informing the veterans about life skills and job opportunities.”

— ANGELICA

DFSH RESPONSE

370+

WOMEN RECEIVING SUPPORT THROUGH

20+
VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

SCRUBS & UNIFORMS TO ESSENTIAL WORKERS

CURBSIDE SUITING

600
MEALS DISTRIBUTED

550
MASKS TO
180 WOMEN



COVID-19 RESOURCE GUIDE SENT TO

720
WOMEN

MORE THAN
350
OUTREACH CALLS

Legacy Giving

PLANNING FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

NILOUFAR MOLAVI, PWC GLOBAL OIL & GAS LEADER



I have been involved with Dress for Success Houston (DFSH) for the past 12 years. As a previous Chairman of the Board and a current board member, I know firsthand that DFSH's programs are incredible and demonstrate the long-term impact they have on the community. The 2019 outcomes (page 3) showed in three years of involvement in DFSH's programs, the number of women on public assistance is cut in half, 46% of the women have already received their first promotion and 86% can now regularly afford meals for their families. Those results are a testament to the lasting impact of DFSH's mission.

DFSH has had strong, loyal donors since they opened their doors almost 22 years ago. They have been a part of the DFSH journey and seen the impact it has had on women and their children in the Houston community. Legacy Giving provides the means for DFSH supporters to ensure their support continues. My husband, Amir, and I are deeply invested in DFSH and a legacy gift was our way of making a lasting mark. We invite DFSH supporters to join us by becoming founding members of the Legacy Giving Society.

ERIC BLUMROSEN, PARTNER, FOLEY & GARDNER L.L.P.



As a past Chairman of the Board of Dress for Success Houston (DFSH) and current board member, I have witnessed our clients making conscious efforts to utilize the many services and resources provided by the organization in a desire to better themselves and in seeking financial independence.

Over the last 22 years, DFSH has proven that the services offered are not only greatly needed, but that they are highly effective. In my humble (and somewhat biased) opinion, not only is DFSH worthy of receiving annual charitable donations, but it is worthy of legacy gifts - due in large part to the successful and sustainable non-profit that has emerged from its founding.

My wife, Tali, and I are excited to be able to provide a legacy gift to DFSH to allow the organization help plan for the future and weather the fluctuations in charitable giving that non-profits are confronted with, particularly at this time. If you are interested in ensuring DFSH's continued success, I encourage you to visit with Nancy Levicki about how your legacy gift can help fortify the organization.

LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBERS

Pamela H. and Hayne S. Blakely
Kearston Block
Tali and Eric Blumrosen
Kristy and Chris Bradshaw
Jennifer Briscoe
Maria Bryant
Katherine Chomout
Monisa Cline

Mary Ellen Coombe
Lauren Levicki Courville and
Kyle Courville
Janis and Paul Jarosz
Nancy Levicki
Ellen M. Levin
Kimberly McCormick
Niloufar and Amir Molavi

Jerri and Jim Moore
Linda Padon
Mary and Ben Patton
Rebekah and Gary Reaves
Rebecca and Dick Roberts
Nikki Rosenberg
Arthur L. Smith
French Anne and Chris Young

Interested in learning more? Contact Nancy Levicki at 713.337.0876 or nancy@dfshouston.org.

MODELS of SUCCESS

SEND ONE SUIT
MARCH 2020

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abc 13 **HOUSTON CHRONICLE** **JUDSON DESIGN**

Team DFSH 2020



THANK YOU
TEAM DFSH SPONSORS

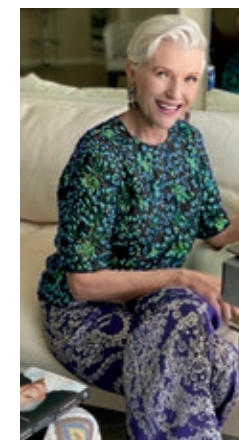
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Power Conversation WITH Maye Musk



Over 350 women "Zoomed" in to DFSH's Power Conversation with model, dietitian and author, Maye Musk on June 4. As a Dress for Success ambassador, Maye shared her story of overcoming poverty as a single mother of three children while advancing her dietitian and modeling careers, as well as balancing a healthy and adventurous lifestyle for her and her children. Outlined in her recent autobiography, *A Woman Makes a Plan*, Maye explains that she, at one time, could have been a Dress for Success client. We are honored she shared her inspirational story of hard work and perseverance with us.

Although the event could not be held in person at the Four Seasons Hotel Houston this year, the hotel generously donated a raffle package of a weekend stay at their newly renovated hotel as well as an experience in their Topgolf® Swing Suite. We look forward to having the event back at the Four Seasons in 2021!

JOIN US NEXT YEAR ON JANUARY 16-17, 2021!

Rendezvous with Dress for Success Houston



SAVE *the* DATE

SATURDAY

10.17.20

7:00PM

A SALUTE TO *Our Resilient Women*

AUCTION CHAIRS

*Susie Cunningham, Kelli Kickerillo
& Monica Richards*

EVENT CHAIRS

*The Board of Directors
Dress for Success Houston*



For more information, please contact Sara Moore at sara@dfshouston.org

CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF EMPOWERING LIVES

Select professional attire

AGENCY NEEDS



Lauren Levicki Courville

PRESIDENT

Myrtle Jones

Janis Jarosz

Connie Simmons Taylor

Courtney Hopson

Gary Reaves

Kim Harz

Ben Patton

Susie Cunningham

Niloufar Molavi

Morris R. Clark

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Chris Bradshaw

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