

# News to Suit You

SUMMER

A NEWSLETTER FROM DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

2021



*"I don't know where I would be if I did not have DFSH in my life."*



*"I feel like a confident and successful business-woman after my suiting appointment. I am ready to take on the world!"*



Dear Friends,

As you may know, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic, 2.2 million fewer women were in the labor force in October 2020 compared to October 2019. This mass exodus was not voluntary; they were forced out due to unforeseen barriers the pandemic has presented. We are working diligently to remain a catalyst for positive change for women in our community. While many still face uncertainties, we are collaborating with our community partners to ensure our continued support of women as they reenter the workforce.



Your commitment and passion for the women Dress for Success Houston (DFSH) has the privilege of serving, allows us to support them now, more than ever, by offering job search and professional development programs, women veterans networking workshops, curbside suiting, as well as H-E-B gifts cards to those who are still facing food insecurities. See pages 3-5 to learn more about your impact.

Please join co-chairs, Allie & Eric Danziger and Drs. Crystal and Randall Wright on Saturday, October 16, 2021 for Rendezvous



with DFSH. We will honor our community partner, H-E-B and the more than 46,000 Houston-area women and 60,000 children DFSH has impacted. Over the last 14 years, H-E-B has provided meals, gift cards and vital financial support to the mission of DFSH. Event details on page 6.

Our mission is to empower women to achieve economic independence while breaking down barriers regardless of race, sexual orientation, and religion to help women thrive in work and life. Our team remains engaged in developing our leadership, as we began an eight-week Dare to Lead course in



April. These experiences enhance our team personally and professionally allowing us to best serve the women of Houston.

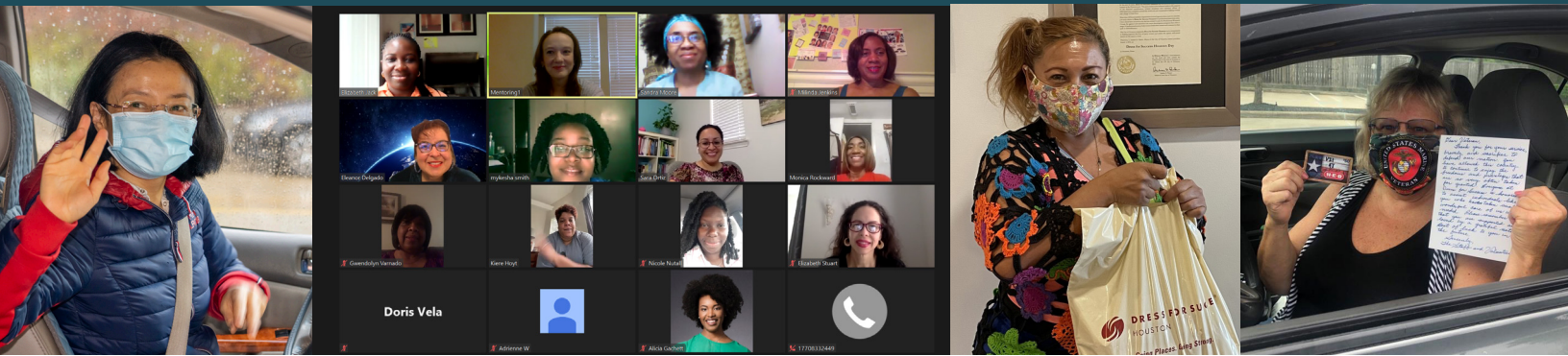
Thank you all for your support to ensure we continue to empower the women and families of DFSH.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Lauren Levicki Courville*

LAUREN LEVICKI COURVILLE  
PRESIDENT

 **DRESS FOR SUCCESS**<sup>®</sup>  
HOUSTON



## Health & Wellness

For the first time in its history, the Chevron Houston Marathon was hosted virtually in January 2021. With determination and team t-shirts in tow, 35 PWG members showed up to cross their own finish lines around Houston. DFSH has participated in the event's charity component, Run for a Reason, for the past nine years. Sponsored by Comerica and Maria & Terry Bryant, Team DFSH raised more than \$10,000 for the women of Houston with a total of 74 participants. Email [r4r@dfshouston.org](mailto:r4r@dfshouston.org) to join our team for the January 2022 race weekend!

In an effort to continue health and wellness journeys year-round, the Professional Women's Group is introducing a Mind-Body series. The goal is to provide strategies about taking care of ourselves so we can show up fully for others and our careers. PWG members will have access to practice items in their weekly emails and Facebook group along with small-group opportunities for deeper discussions.

*I am proud the We Are Houston 5K is now part of my accomplishments. Thank you for keeping me accountable.*  
—YECENIA



## Women's Veteran Program

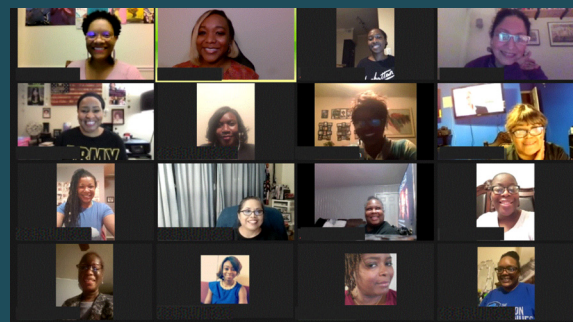
The goal of the Women's Veteran Program is to empower women veterans through a network of support that continues to connect them to community resources, build professional relationships and cultivate personal growth in a safe, uplifting environment.

In 2020, the Women's Veteran Program hosted 23 events covering PTSD, nutrition, military career transition, and more! Workshop attendance was up 54%

throughout all DFSH programs.

This year, we launched Veteran Virtual Meet Ups – a place where women veterans can connect, encourage and motivate each other. Over 30 veterans have attended this new networking opportunity.

OVER 1,400 WOMEN VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014



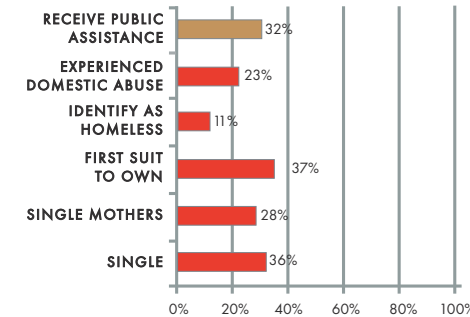
*I feel connected because other veterans share similar experiences. There is a better understanding within the group.*

—CATHERINE

# 23 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.

### DEMOGRAPHICS OF WOMEN ENTERING DFSH PROGRAMS



**1,400+** VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014

**258** VOLUNTEERS DONATED **3,358** HOURS IN 2020

### TOP EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRIES

24% Healthcare  
11% Social Services  
9% Education

**55%** OF WOMEN SUITED GAINED EMPLOYMENT IN 2020



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

### NEW HYBRID MODEL FOR WORKSHOPS

**400+** WOMEN RECEIVING SUPPORT THROUGH

MORE THAN **80** KIWICO STEM KITS DISTRIBUTED TO PWG CHILDREN

### CURBSIDE SUITING TO MORE THAN

**300** WOMEN

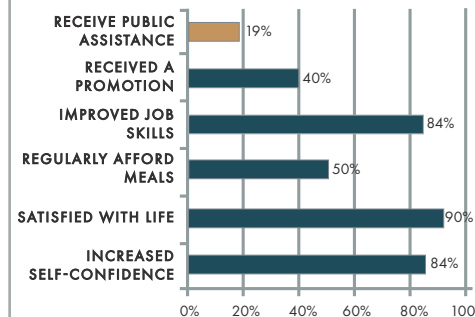
**33** VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS



**195** H-E-B GIFT CARDS TO VETERANS

MORE THAN **700** OUTREACH CALLS

### AFTER THREE YEARS OF PARTICIPATING IN DFSH PROGRAMS



IN 2020,

**1,331** WOMEN

WERE IMPACTED BY

**9,402** UNITS OF SERVICE

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



# Job Search Program Update

Over two million women in the United States left the workforce in 2020, with Black and Latina women comprising over 35% of those newly jobless. The women served by DFSH are no different, with nearly 70% of their jobs affected last year. Recognizing a staggering need to get our women back to work, DFSH relaunched the Job Search program virtually with a goal to assist 125 women in securing employment.

The eight-step Job Search program includes completing an initial survey, attending a Google Suite Basics recorded workshop, participating in Resume Review, attending a Speak for Success workshop, mastering the 60-Second Elevator Pitch, participating in Mock Interviews, learning how to market themselves on LinkedIn and attending one-on-one coaching with Adecco recruiters.



*“DFSH makes me feel part of a family who challenges me to rise above any situation.”*

MARILESSÉ



*“Susan Nelson always brings such a thought-provoking position to the table which allows me to continue to grow and learn something new.”*

AMELIA



*“I now feel whole and empowered to believe in myself. I have direction and purpose, and I want to make a difference in my career.”*

KIMBERLY



*“DFSH always gives me the hope that these hard times will pass.”*

PAULETTE

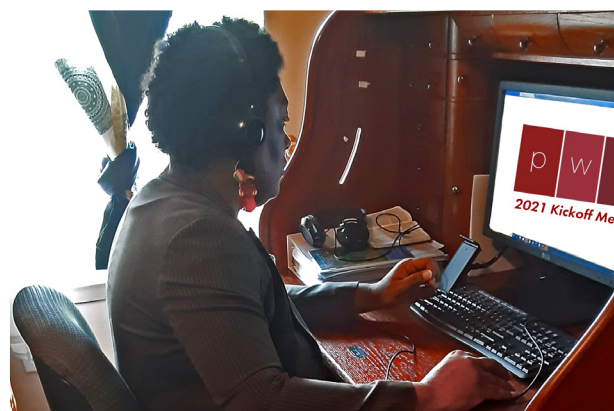


*“PWG has been the resource I’ve needed to get through the tough times in my life.”*

KIMBERLEY

*“We are all coping and attempting to survive to the best of our abilities. Thank you for showing concern, kindness and responding to our needs.”*

KENYA



*“The workshops add to my hopes and dreams of moving forward. I appreciate how intentional DFSH is about wellness and career endeavors.”*

ELOISE

*“Empowering women means giving women the voice in society which was silenced for so many generations. We must all work hard to continue to speak out to let our voices be heard, the voices of empathy, love and healing.”*

ELLEN



## Success Story | Joy

REGISTERED DIETITIAN

At the age of 17, Joy enlisted in the United States Navy and served 14 years before making the decision to pursue her passion of nutrition. She moved to Houston and struggled to feel settled while she transitioned into civilian life. After graduating from the University of Houston with a 3.5 GPA, Joy was introduced to DFSH for her interview suiting appointment.

The preparation helped her land a position at H-E-B. Joy then joined the PWG and began regularly attending workshops. She says the various program topics taught her “to love myself and know my worth”. In April, Joy was selected to commission with the United States Navy as a registered dietitian in Okinawa, Japan. Joy will oversee nutrition for the Navy and Marine Corps service members and their families.

# Her Path Forward

THANK YOU, HOUSTON, FOR ENSURING WE CONTINUE TO CREATE SYSTEMIC CHANGE BY RAISING MORE THAN \$130,000 FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

## THANK YOU CLEAN SWEEP SPONSORS



JOAN & STANFORD  
ALEXANDER



Christian Brothers Automotive



## IN-KIND SPONSORS



SCAN TO CONTINUE  
SUPPORTING DFSH!



## PLEASE JOIN US

**SATURDAY**

**10.16.21**

from **4:30PM**  
to **7PM**

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON** ✂ 3310 Eastside St., Houston, TX 77098

**HONORING** our community partner, *H-E-B and the families of DFSH*

<p><b>AUCTION CHAIRS</b> <i>Susie Cunningham, Kate Dearing Fowler &amp; Monica Richards</i></p>	<p><b>EVENT CHAIRS</b> <i>Allie &amp; Eric Danziger and Drs. Crystal &amp; Randall Wright</i></p>
---	---

*For more information, please contact Courtney Budra at [courtney@dfshouston.org](mailto:courtney@dfshouston.org)*

CELEBRATING 23 YEARS OF EMPOWERING LIVES

# GET INVOLVED



## Corporate Guild

The Corporate Guild is a networking association of women helping women, supporting and promoting each other as professionals, while simultaneously providing impact to DFSH programs and the women we serve. In 2020, the Corporate Guild consisted of 62 companies from various industries.

To learn more about joining visit [dfshouston.org/events](https://dfshouston.org/events).

On June 2, Four Seasons Hotel Houston hosted our Corporate Guild's PowHER Hour for a 19<sup>th</sup> year. Over 90 Corporate Guild members and their guests attended the wine tasting led by Sabrina

Norbert from Total Wine and More while the hotel's Senior Sous Chef Marcos Navarro prepared delectable bites to pair with each wine. Members enjoyed a game of 'Heads or Tails' for the chance to win a VIP shopping experience and \$1,500 gift card from J. Landa Jewelry.



## Women of Wardrobe

Our popular young professionals group is busy planning their event of the season, Tootsies Summer Soiree! Join WOW on August 25 for fashion, fun and philanthropy. Active members receive complimentary entry to this event and more

throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who attended Spring Fling, presented by Camden, and helped us raise more than \$17,000 for DFSH! Contact [wow@dfshouston.org](mailto:wow@dfshouston.org) for membership questions.

## Legacy Giving

PLANNING FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

The Legacy Giving Society is comprised of dedicated DFSH supporters whose planned gifts lay the foundation for the agency's future. Their generosity will impact thousands of women in years to come. For more information about Legacy Giving, please contact Nancy Levicki at 713-337-0876.

### LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBERS

Joan and Stanford Alexander  
Anonymous  
Marla and Rick Barnard  
Pamela H. and Hayne S. Blakely  
Kearston Block  
Tali and Eric Blumrosen  
Genora and Dwight Boykins  
Kristy and Chris Bradshaw  
Jennifer Briscoe  
Maria Bryant  
Katherine Chomout  
Laura and Ralph Clinard  
Monisa Cline  
Mary Ellen Coombe  
Lauren Levicki Courville and Kyle Courville

Kasey and Mark Dunn  
Diedra Booker Fontaine  
Mia Gradney and Troy Clendenin  
Arline Guefen  
Kim and Ted Hartz  
Janis and Paul Jarosz  
Myrtle Jones  
Marie Louise and David Kinder  
Caroline and Jeff Lafond  
Nancy Levicki  
Ellen M. Levin  
Kristi and Michael McCarthy  
Kimberly McCormick  
Melkeya McDuffie  
Niloufar and Amir Molavi

Jerri and Jim Moore  
Linda Padon  
Mary and Ben Patton  
Amanda and Jeff Polich  
Rebekah and Gary Reaves  
Bonnie Reitz  
Rebecca and Dick Roberts  
Nikki Rosenberg  
Jane and Dick Schmitt  
Arthur L. Smith and Family  
Connie and Kynlyn Taylor  
Linda Webb  
Staci Voll and Erick Wegmann  
Debra Witges  
French Anne and Chris Young

# Join the Conversation

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

In addition to our revamped Job Search program, DFSH hosted a virtual Town Hall on June 8. We collaborated with three community partners to address removing barriers for women looking for employment with more than 200 in attendance. Isabel (right) is just one example of the millions of women who have experienced long-term unemployment.

**HER PATH FORWARD:**  
**BACK TO WORK**  
 DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

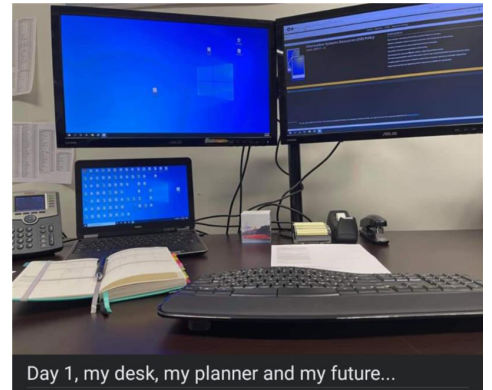


# Success Story Isabel

GC QUALITY MANAGER

Isabel spent two years unemployed - attending workshops to improve her interview skills and gain confidence. She participated in over 20 classes at DFSH while updating her LinkedIn profile and keeping her interview skills fresh.

In early March, Isabel finally landed the opportunity she'd be searching for. After nailing the interview in her suit from DFSH, Isabel received an offer and started her new position as a GC Quality Manager. She is now in her third month of employment and attributes DFSH for the "invaluable knowledge and guidance" she received.



Day 1, my desk, my planner and my future...

*Photos featuring unmasked individuals were taken following the CDC's guidelines of recommended social distancing or as a selfie in the privacy of the person's home.*



- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Eric A. Blumrosen
  - Chris Bradshaw
  - Kristi W. Chickering
  - Susie Cunningham
  - Kate Dearing Fowler
  - Kim Harz
  - Courtney Hopson
  - Janis Jarsz
  - Myrtle Jones
  - PRESIDENT**
  - Lauren Levicki Courville

- Carla Kneipp
- Caroline Lafond
- Nancy Levicki
- Kristi McCarthy
- Niloufar Molavi
- Ben Patton
- Gary Reaves
- Connie Simmons Taylor

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS** HOUSTON  
 3310 Eastside Street | Houston, Texas 77098  
 tel 713.957.3779 | fax 713.957.3774  
 DFSHOUSTON.ORG



Non-profit  
 organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Houston, TX  
 Profit# 12576