

News to Suit You

Summer

A NEWSLETTER FROM DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

2019



Dear Friends,
I am honored to be writing my first President's Letter. After six years as Vice President, I am thrilled to lead such an incredible team that empowers the women we have the privilege to serve. Each of you plays an integral role in our success, and we are grateful for your support of our mission. Over the past six years in our building, we have seen a **165% growth** here at Dress for Success Houston. We truly have grown *#beyondthesuit*.

With summertime approaching, I often think of our veterans as we honor them over

Memorial Day and Fourth of July. I am extremely proud that we have grown our women veterans' program. Since its inception in 2014, the program has expanded from four days a year to now offering 22 workshops in 2019. More information about this expansion can be found on page two.

I invite you to join me and our Chairs, Kim Campo Hartz & Ted Hartz and Melissa & Dan Sugulas, on **Saturday, October 19** for *Rendezvous at the Revaire*, our annual fundraiser. This year we will honor the more than **1,200 women veterans served since 2014**. This service is available thanks

to supporters like you, as we are not Government or United Way funded.

For the past four years, our partnerships with TUTS and The Houston Symphony have provided exposure to our women that they perhaps may have never experienced in their lives and their children's lives. We are excited to be a part of the **TUTS Public Works** programming in its inaugural year. Join us **July 18** as we *Fill the Hill at Miller Outdoor Theatre* – learn more on page two.

With heartfelt thanks,

Lauren Levicki Courville

LAUREN LEVICKI COURVILLE
PRESIDENT



TUTS Public Works

PWG PARTNERSHIP EXPANDED

Our partnership with Theater Under the Stars (TUTS) has expanded this year, and we are one of four non-profits to be a part of their inaugural Public Works programming. We have 12 PWG members participating in this intensive program.

Participants meet three to four times a month outside of regular PWG meetings to work on storytelling, improv skills, vocal techniques, and more. While these skills may be related to theater, they are also skills that the women can

use at work and at home. Their participation also helps them build confidence and relationships. The course culminates in the women writing their own short performance piece called *Labyrinth* which shares the impact of PWG and the network of support received from our programs.

To showcase their new skills, the women will participate in a community production of *Seussical* at Miller Outdoor Theatre July 16 – 21. Please join us as we *Fill the Hill* on July 18 to celebrate the hard work of these women as they hit the stage!

TUTS Public Works has stretched me beyond my comfort zone and has shown me that I am capable of far more than I ever imagined.



Entrepreneurial Series

SPONSORED BY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AUTOMOTIVE

We had such a positive response to our last three Entrepreneurial Boot Camps that we have expanded our program to include a 16-week, eight-part series. The program is built to walk participants step-by-step through essential business foundations, such as legal entity formations, business plans, and marketing.

Presenters include the University of Houston Small Business Development Center and SCORE. We have 13 women participating in the program and more than half will open their own business, from a tutoring company to a restaurant.



Veterans Program

SPONSORED BY PALAIS ROYAL

1,200 WOMEN VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014

In our fifth year of serving women veterans, the program has expanded to take a more holistic approach to address the transition from a military occupation to a civilian career. Growing from four veteran specific events per year in 2014, to offering 22 in 2019, women veterans have the opportunity to attend workshops on various topics such as: The Power of Positive Thinking; Goal Setting & Action Plans; Resiliency & Coping with Stress; Navigating the VA; E-Colors Personality Assessments; and Disability Claims Clinics.

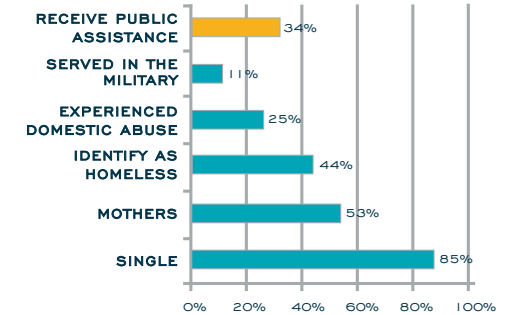
These workshops are facilitated by community partners such as the VA, Wounded Warrior Project, Halliburton and Schlumberger.



21 YEARS

OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED WOMEN AND CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES, THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF WOMEN ENTERING DFSSH PROGRAMS



1,200 VETERANS SERVED SINCE 2014

300 VOLUNTEERS DONATED 4,200 HOURS YTD

TOP EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRIES

31% HEALTHCARE
9% HOSPITALITY
8% EDUCATION/RETAIL

58% of women employed
YEAR TO DATE



ONLY 11% OF CHARITIES NATIONALLY EVALUATED HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST FIVE CONSECUTIVE 4-STAR EVALUATIONS.

Isabel



Finance Industry
Navy Veteran

Judy



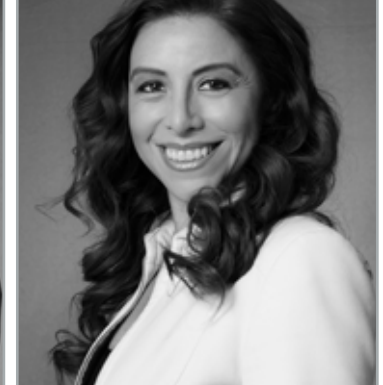
Residential Realtor

Krystle



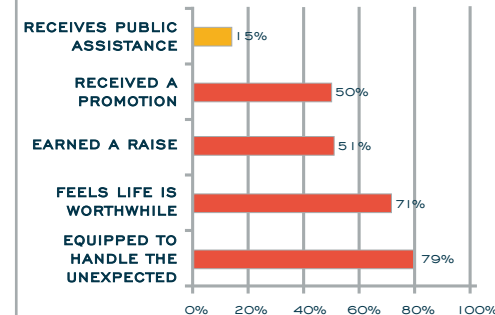
Nonprofit Industry
Army Veteran

Sofia



Media Sales

AFTER THREE YEARS OF PARTICIPATING IN DFSSH PROGRAMS




IN 2019, 3,750 women

WILL BE IMPACTED BY 18,500 UNITS OF SERVICE

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

Thanks a Million

FOR A SUCCESSFUL

Send **ONE** Suit
 **MONTH**
March 2019

200 Companies
250 Drop-off sites
40,000 Professional Items

Walk or Run for a Reason

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 OR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020



Be a part of our team for the
WE ARE HOUSTON 5K,
ARAMCO HALF MARATHON or the
CHEVRON HOUSTON MARATHON
in 2020!



Contact r4r@dfshouston.org for more information.

Legacy Giving

PLANNING FOR
CONTINUED SUCCESS



Thanks in large part to your support, more than 43,500 women have been impacted by our programs since our founding in 1998. As you know, Dress for Success

Houston empowers women by giving them tools to make a positive first impression on potential employers and maintain a lasting impression once they land the job.

The women who participate in our programs quit public assistance, are more equipped to handle the unexpected, regularly afford meals and, most importantly, feel that life is worthwhile. They share stories of accomplishment, financial success, and enjoy a life that is meaningful to them and their families. Their success transforms the lives and legacy not only of their children but also their entire community by sharing the lessons learned here.

As a tribute to these women's legacy and a vision for the women who will come after, I felt it imperative that I establish the Legacy Giving Program as my final contribution to DFSH. I'd like to invite you to join me as a founding member of the Legacy Society to ensure future generations of women continue to receive the benefit of Dress for Success Houston's life-changing and legacy-building programs. Thank you for the impact you have and continue to make to DFSH and the women we serve.

With gratitude,

Nancy Levicki

FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF LEGACY GIVING
PRESIDENT EMERITUS & CO-FOUNDER DFSH

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

Rendezvous at the Revaire

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019



 **SAVE *the* DATE**

SATURDAY	10.19.19	<i>from 6:30PM to 11PM</i>
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THE REVAIRE ✂ 7122 Old Katy Road, Houston, TX 77024

SALUTING Our Women Veterans	EVENT CHAIRS Kim Campo Hartz & Ted Hartz Melissa & Dan Sugulas
AUCTION CHAIRS Susie Cunningham, Kelli Kickerillo, & Monica Richards	

For more information, please contact Lauren Levicki Courville at lauren@dfshouston.org

A Night Out

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019



SAVE THE DATE

AnightOUT
presented by DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

WHEN | Thursday, November 14, 2019 • 6pm - 9:30pm
LOCATION | River Oaks Country Club • 1600 River Oaks Blvd.

CONTACT | Lauren Levicki Courville • lauren@dfshouston.org • 713.337.0884

TICKETS ARE \$250 AND TABLES START AT \$5K



Success Story | Kristin

NAVY VETERAN &
HUMAN RESOURCES REPRESENTATIVE

Kristin proudly served as a Master-at-Arms (Military Police) and Corpsman in the United States Navy for eight years. Following her Honorable Discharge in 2016, Kristin moved to Houston to start a new life. Unfortunately, like 25% of the women Dress for Success Houston serves, Kristin was in an abusive relationship and lost her spirit and confidence.

Kristin landed a job in the Health Care field as a Human Resource Representative and started attending Professional Women's Group (PWG) meetings. Kristin says that being a part of PWG has helped her to feel like she was in a safe place to heal. Now more confident, she felt like she could grow professionally. Kristin says that PWG meetings like "Continuing Crucial Conversations" and the "Accenture Leadership Series" helped her to positively develop and expand in her HR role. Her commitment to applying what she learned in PWG has paid off: in just two years, Kristin has received three raises!

Kristin says Dress for Success Houston has played a huge role in her becoming something greater for not only for herself, but for her three year old son.

*Kristin as a
"Model of Success"*

Tribute

VIRGINIA STEPPE

On May 5, Virginia Steppe, a member of our Board and long-time supporter of DFSH, lost her valiant battle with cancer. Virginia and her daughter Alissa Maples, DFSH Advisory Council member, have co-chaired our auction for our largest fundraiser for the past six years. Virginia's passion, poise, zest for life and empowerment of the women of DFSH will be incredibly missed.

This beautiful quote Virginia lived by will inspire us all – *"Always leave people better than you found them. Hug the hurt. Kiss the broken. Befriend the lost. Love the lonely."*

Virginia is missed, but her spirit lives on as our work continues.



*Kevin & Alissa Maples, Virginia & Dan Steppe at
Rendezvous at The Revaire October 2018*

1,000 Professional Handbags
AGENCY NEEDS



Lauren Levicki Courville
PRESIDENT

Kim Harz	Gary Reeves
Kasey Dunn	Ben Patton
Susie Cunningham	Jerrri Moore
Morris R. Clark	Kristi McCarthy
Kristi W. Chickering	Nancy Levicki
Chris Bradshaw	Carla Kneipp
Eric A. Blumrosen	Courtney Hopson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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