

# News to Suit You

WINTER

A NEWSLETTER FROM DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

2022



*“My spirits were lifted just anticipating being able to walk into the doors.”*



*“DFS Houston is making a strong positive impact on the next generation of professional women.”*



Dear Friends,

As we enter the new year renewed and focused, I want to take this opportunity to look back at 2021 with gratitude. Thank you to all our supporters for your ongoing commitment to the women and mission of Dress for Success Houston. During these challenging years, your steadfast support has allowed us to learn, evolve, and better serve the women in our community.

Once again, we were overwhelmed by the untiring efforts of our Rendezvous with Dress for Success Houston chairs. Thanks to the combined talents of Allie and Eric Danziger and Drs. Crystal and Randy Wright, our auction chairs, local chefs, and your support, we exceeded our goal of \$500,000. See p. 5 to read about your impact.

Keeping with the theme of women helping women, our Corporate Guild and Women of Wardrobe (WOW) networking groups continue to grow (see back cover to get involved). As members of these groups, you experience the difference it makes to have a network of support.

Through your support and our strong community partnerships, we can enrich and expand programs in the new year. As you will see on pages 2-4, our Job Search, Professional Women’s Group, and Women’s



Veteran programs were mostly virtual. While the women were grateful for access, they (and we) are excited to begin the hybrid model of virtual and in person engagement through our learning management system in early spring.

This transition will coincide with our annual giving campaign Her Path Forward which has evolved from Send One Suit month. While all our paths have looked different over the past couple of years, our commitment to providing a holistic approach to personal and professional development for the women we serve hasn’t wavered. Our Board has generously committed to a \$10,000 match, and we hope you will help us achieve this goal!

See back page for more details.

As a community of benefactors who have made an investment in these women and their children, your generosity moves our city towards becoming a model of prosperity for all its citizens.

I look forward to all that 2022 holds and working with our team to continue to serve our constituents of clients, volunteers and donors.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Lauren Levicki Courville*  
LAUREN LEVICKI COURVILLE  
PRESIDENT

# 23 YEARS

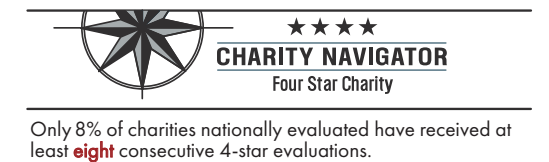
OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND CREATING SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES, THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY ALL BECAUSE OF SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU.

**1,500+**  
VETERANS  
SERVED  
SINCE 2014

**220** VOLUNTEERS  
DONATED  
**3,022** HOURS  
IN 2021

**48%** OF WOMEN  
SUITED GAINED  
EMPLOYMENT  
IN 2021

**170**  
CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAYS  
WITH DFS HOUSTON



NEW HYBRID MODEL FOR WORKSHOPS

**400+**

WOMEN RECEIVING  
SUPPORT THROUGH

**114**

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

**45** WOMEN  
PARTICIPATED  
IN HOUSTON  
MARATHON RACE  
WEEKEND

**613**  
WOMEN  
SUITED

**262**  
H-E-B GIFT CARDS  
TO VETERANS



MORE THAN  
**700**  
OUTREACH  
CALLS

IN 2021, **1,090** WOMEN  
**6,855** UNITS OF SERVICE  
WERE IMPACTED BY  
SUCH AS PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE, CAREER EDUCATION,  
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND VETERANS PROGRAMS.

 **150**  
RECEIVED  
HOME SAFETY  
DEVICES

**55**  
WOMEN  
WERE AWARDED  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
IN 2021

## Job Search Program Update

In 2021, the Job Search Program helped 130 women with resume assistance and interview preparation. Approaching the job search from a holistic perspective, women had access to workshops from The Women's Fund, Have Shears Will Travel, Ultra Beauty and more. While this year's programming was predominantly

virtual, 2022 will begin with a hybrid model of programming. Clients will choose the format that works best for them. We look forward to continuing to provide the professional support the women in our community need to gain employment and thrive!



*"First Impressions gave me the confidence to make a great impression for my interview. I landed the job!"*

—Z.J.



*"I appreciate all you're doing and how DFS Houston impacts our community of women."*

—ALICIA

*"I have never felt more loved and supported during my time out of the military, as I do at DFS Houston."*

—JOY



*"You all are a blessing."*

—JANIE

## Join the Conversation

In its seventh year, Women in the Workplace, the largest study of women in corporate America, determined women are still being disproportionately affected by the pandemic and associated lockdowns. This effort, conducted by McKinsey & Company in partnership with Lean In, analyzes the representation of women in corporate America,

provides an overview of HR policies and programs—including HR leaders' sentiment on the most effective diversity, equity, and inclusion practices—and explores the intersectional experiences of different groups of women at work. Please open the QR Code to learn more and join the conversation.





## Financial Literacy

Congratulations to our 2021 Financial Literacy graduates! This year, DFS Houston piloted a cohort of former Financial Literacy graduates interested in deepening their knowledge. With support from Comerica Bank, 15 women completed the new 2.0 course learning long-term planning, investing skills, financial protection, and estate planning.

Launched in 2010, thirteen women graduated from the original Financial Literacy course in November. Participants learned about expected topics such as budgeting, credit, and debt management, as well as how emotions and family play into their finances. Sponsor Christian Brothers Automotive Foundation celebrated with the graduates alongside Macy's Galleria.



*I thought I would get better at budgeting and saving but the impact of this course has been so much more. I never thought about how much my emotions impact my finances or how important protection planning is. This has not only changed my life but my family's as well.*

—FINANCIAL LITERACY GRADUATE

## Women's Veteran Program

The 2021 Women's Veteran Program was a success! The attendance doubled, and we served more than 250 veterans. The webinars focused on helping our veterans understand the importance and value of a holistic approach to balancing everyday life, targeting emotional, social, psychological and professional development. The

array of talented speakers included a Veteran Affairs psychiatric nurse practitioner, a UTHealth doctor, life coaches, leadership coaches and a financial planner.



*This workshop has become a part of my self-care routine, and the webinars always provide me with tools I can use immediately after.*

—MARCELLA, U.S. NAVY VETERAN



**CHAIRS**  
*Allie & Eric Danziger*  
*Dr. Crystal & Randy Wright*

**AUCTION CHAIRS**  
*Susie Cunningham,*  
*Kate Dearing Fowler &*  
*Monica Richards*



*Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors who made the event a success!*

WE APPRECIATE THE GENEROSITY OF

*A Fare Extraordinaire, Coppa Osteria, Gulf Coast Distillers, Hungry's, Monkey's Tail, Night Moves Hospitality, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Picos Hospitality Group, Pondicheri, Relish, SweetCup, and Total Wine & More*

**\$567,000** RAISED TO  
SUPPORT DFSH PROGRAMS

**236** GUESTS ATTENDED

## Legacy Giving

PLANNING FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

We extend our sincere thanks to our Founding Legacy Giving Society Members – see page 6. Your commitment to Dress for Success Houston ensures future programming to support the empowerment of women in our community. If you wish to learn more about being a part of the Legacy Giving Society, please contact Nancy Levicki, Founding Director of Legacy Giving, [nancy@dfshouston.org](mailto:nancy@dfshouston.org).

*DFS Houston's programs are changing lives by enhancing the ability of marginalized women to succeed in the workforce, to become solid contributors to the well-being of their families, and to give back to their communities. A successful Legacy Giving program will ensure DFS Houston can build on its proven success and continue to strengthen the Houston community in its efforts to thrive in the new, more problematic economy of the twenty-first century.*

—STEPHEN KLINEBERG RICE UNIVERSITY, FOUNDING DIRECTOR KINDER INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH

# Thank You to Our Donors

## LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBERS

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Libby Cagle and Lauren Taft	Kate Dearing Fowler	Nancy Levicki	Amanda and Jeff Polich	Debra Witges
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*For more information about Legacy Giving, please contact Nancy Levicki at [nancy@dfshouston.org](mailto:nancy@dfshouston.org).*

## FOUNDATIONS \$500 AND MORE

American Endowment Foundation	Christian Brothers Automotive Corporation	Texas Aromatics, LP	Macquarie	Flo Crady Newton
Aundh Private Foundation	Comcast	Texas Dental Specialists	Marathon Oil Corporation	Sylvie Crum
CFP Foundation	Comerica Bank	The Greenhouse Day Spa	Midway	Wendy Daboval
Charities Aid Foundation of America	Commerce Bank	Tootsies	MTBT Properties	Allie Danziger
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation	ConocoPhillips	Transocean	Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP	Vivian Darling
Greater Houston Community Foundation	Crestwood Equity Partners LP	Triple Double Advisors LLC	PDR	Jerri Duddlesten Moore
Heimbinder Family Foundation	Daikin Industries, Lt	Truist Bank	PNC	Cheri Fama
Houston Jewish Community Foundation - Stanford & Joan Alexander	Debner	Ultra Beauty	PwC	Sukey Fenoglio
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Mithoff Family Foundation	First Horizon Bank	WISE Houston	Reliant, an NRG company	Ellie Francisco
R.E. Smith Foundation	First Reserve	Woodforest National Bank	Schlumberger	Rohini Gakhar
Shell Oil Company Foundation	Francisco+co	<b>CORPORATE GUILD</b>	Shearman & Sterling LLP	Jennifer Gatto
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The Hamill Foundation	Halliburton	Ampersand Professionals	Sullivan Group	Pam Jesse
The Jerry C. Dearing Family Foundation	H-E-B	BVA Group	Texas Aromatics	Laura Ann Johnson
Vivian L. Smith Foundation	Hiring Source	Baker Botts L.L.P.	Texas Dental Specialists	Shauna Johnson Clark and Morris R. Clark
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	Inscription Capital	Challenger, Gray & Christmas	Truist Bank	Kelli Kickerillo
	J. Landa	Chevron	UKG	Marie Louise Kinder
	Jenkins & Kamin, LLP	Chicago Title	Ultra Beauty	Stephen LeJeune
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	Marathon Oil Corporation	First Horizon Bank	Christina Blackwell	Trish Morille
	Midway	Four Seasons Hotel Houston	Pamela H. Blakely	Lauren Page
	National Christian Foundation	The Greenhouse Day Spa	Karen Bloomfield	Cinda Palacios
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		Kenni Consulting, LLC	Monisa Cline	Arthur L. Smith
		LeadStyle, LLC	Mary Ellen Coombe	Willie M. Stanfield

## CORPORATIONS \$500 AND MORE

Amegy Bank	Christian Brothers Automotive Corporation	Texas Aromatics, LP	Macquarie	Flo Crady Newton
Baker Botts L.L.P.	Comcast	Texas Dental Specialists	Marathon Oil Corporation	Sylvie Crum
Bank of Texas	Comerica Bank	The Greenhouse Day Spa	Midway	Wendy Daboval
BBVA Compass	Commerce Bank	Tootsies	MTBT Properties	Allie Danziger
BKD	ConocoPhillips	Transocean	Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP	Vivian Darling
Bristow Group	Crestwood Equity Partners LP	Triple Double Advisors LLC	PDR	Jerri Duddlesten Moore
BVA Group	Daikin Industries, Lt	Truist Bank	PNC	Cheri Fama
Cadence Bank	Debner	Ultra Beauty	PwC	Sukey Fenoglio
CenterPoint Energy	Emerson Charitable Trust	Ultimate Kronos Group	Quorum Software	Cathy Fitzpatrick Cleary
Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.	Ethos Consulting LC	Wells Fargo Bank	Reed Smith LLP	Berthica Andrea Fitzsimons
Chevron	First American Title Company	Westwood Wealth Managment	Reliant, an NRG company	Diedra Fontaine
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	First Reserve	Woodforest National Bank	Schlumberger	Rohini Gakhar
	Francisco+co	<b>CORPORATE GUILD</b>	Shearman & Sterling LLP	Jennifer Gatto
	GEICO Philanthropic Foundation	A Fare Extraordinaire	Silver Chase Design	Mia Gradney
	Goodman Financial	Amegy Bank	Sirius Solutions, LLLP	Lindsay Holstead
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	Hiring Source	Baker Botts L.L.P.	Texas Dental Specialists	Shauna Johnson Clark and Morris R. Clark
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	Monica McNeill	Berg Hospitality	Mai's Nail Perfection	Teleties
	Moriah and Rod Crosby	Black Swan Yoga	Mansur Gavriel	Texas Rock Gym
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*We appreciate all donations which came in after December 8, 2021.*



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**PRESIDENT**

*Lauren Levicki Courville*



**AGENCY NEEDS**

*Professional shoes, handbags, business portfolios and blazers.  
 The donation circle is open on Fridays from 10AM-2PM.*

# HER PATH FORWARD

DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

Support our 2022 initiatives and increase program access with a hybrid model by giving to Her Path Forward in March! This month-long campaign impacts women and their families on their journey to self-sufficiency through career development, job search skills, and veteran resources. Help us reach our goal of \$10,000 beginning March 1 by opening the QR code.



# Get Involved

CORPORATE GUILD AND WOMEN OF WARDROBE

Are you passionate about impacting the community with strong, dedicated women by your side? Join one of our auxiliary groups to support our mission of helping women secure employment.

The Corporate Guild is a networking association of women helping women promote each other as professionals, simultaneously providing support to DFS Houston's 20+ programs and the women we serve. In 2021, the Corporate Guild consisted of 57 companies from various industries.

Our popular young professionals group, Women of Wardrobe, raises funds and awareness of DFS Houston through social events, volunteering and fundraisers. Active members receive complimentary entry to monthly events throughout the year while networking with like-minded women. Open the QR code to learn more about how to get involved.



*The River Oaks District hosted the Corporate Guild luncheon in November at Ouzo Bay.*