

WINTER 2015

NEWS to SUIT YOU

A newsletter from Dress for Success Houston

Dear Friends,

As we wind down 2015, I am so grateful that with each passing year, Dress For Success Houston (DFSH) touches more lives, weaving a **support network** which extends far beyond the individual clients who enter our doors.

There is no better proof of the strength of our DFSH community than this tremendous milestone: in 2015, we celebrated our **first client to receive a PhD**— acknowledgment that we provide so much more than a suit! **We are a community that believes in possibility** and provides the resources which place our clients on a path to making their dreams a reality.

DFSH achieved much this year:

◆ More than **doubling the number of female veterans served** by expanding our **#beyondtheuniform** initiative to include quarterly service and career fairs and leading affiliates across Texas to launch similar veteran-focused events.

◆ Offering PWC members a performance by the Houston Symphony's Community Embedded Musicians Program and surprising them with tickets to a night at the symphony.

◆ Completing a **customized database, providing unduplicated numbers** to track where clients land jobs and capture key demographics, enabling us to learn more about their journey, and our impact **BEYOND the suit.**

We are very close to being able to say that half of the women we serve find jobs, and **your support is essential** to achieve and grow this number. Your time, talents and financial gifts are vital threads in the DFSH network, helping to elevate and truly change the fabric of our clients' lives.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season— think **#beyondthesuit** in 2016.

Nancy S. Levicki

Nancy Levicki
President & Co-Founder



ABOVE: In September, current and past Board of Directors gathered to celebrate the history of DFSH and take a glimpse into what the future holds as the agency moves **#beyondthesuit**. FRONT ROW R-L: **Connie Simmons Taylor, Eric Blumrosen, Wendy Daboval, Niloufar Molavi, Nancy Levicki, Willie Stanfield, Courtney Hopson, and Art Smith.** BACK ROW R-L: **Trish Morille, Berthica Andrea Fitzsimons, Sydney Staley, Morris Clark, Clare Sullivan Jackson, Gary Reaves, Chris Bradshaw and Marie Louise Kinder.**

BELOW: The 14th annual special event, *A Night Out*, featured Corporate Guild models walking the runway at River Oaks Country Club. L-R: **Rachel Steely, Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP; Emily Elliott, Rebecca Matthews Image & Style; Kasey Dunn, PwC; Janis Jarosz, Service Corporation International / Dignity Memorial; Karra Marino, Reliant, an NRG company; Lynne Williams, Baker Williams Matthiesen LLP; Staci Voll, Texas Aromatics, LP; Priscilla Arthus, Reed Smith LLP; Cathy Fitzpatrick Cleary, Style Show Producer and DFSH Advisory Council member.**

The models from *A Night Out* and *Cuisine for a Cause* looked perfectly polished thanks to **Drybar River Oaks** and **Sephora**.

BOTTOM: **Mia Gradney, KHOU 11 Anchor**, emceed our 17th annual fundraiser, *Cuisine for a Cause*, and showcased client success stories for women impacted by DFSH's programs and services. Ladies from DFSH's **Professional Women's Group** were featured after securing employment in the following industries: finance, healthcare, education, insurance and administration in local government.



Professional Women's Group (PWG)

PWG Member Feedback

“PWG has opened my eyes to what I can achieve if I try.”

Houston Symphony Partnership

In October, PWG members were the first to benefit from the Houston Symphony's new Community Embedded Musician program. Two musicians, Jenna Barghouti and Hellen Weberpal, played, shared their stories of failure and success, and related music to communication skills for PWG members—proving there is always a common thread between us. The symphony also generously provided more than 100 tickets for members and their families to attend shows.

RIGHT: Liz, NASA, with her mentee Fay, Xerox.

WOMEN2WOMEN Mentoring Program

Become a mentor! We are seeking 70 professional women with an ability to listen and an interest in helping a woman succeed in work and life. The Women2Women Mentoring Program continues to be one of our most popular PWG programs—both with the mentors and PWG members.

If you are interested in learning how to become a mentor, please contact Rachel Wilson at 713-337-0883 or rachael@dfshouston.org.



Financial Literacy Program

Our Financial Literacy programs continue to provide PWG members with the knowledge needed to make informed financial decisions. This year, BBVA Compass and PwC led spring and fall boot camps, in which 37 women dedicated a full day to their financial wellbeing. The full 13-week journey towards financial security was faithfully attended by 13 PWG members. Donna Cole, CEO of Cole Chemicals, shared her story of hard work, lifelong learning and perseverance with the graduates.

PWG Member Feedback

“PWG has given me the confidence to go back to school and land my dream job.”

U.S. VETERANS SERVICE DAY AND CAREER FAIR—NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Through a statewide affiliate effort, 85 veterans received more than 350 units of service. In Houston, 40 veterans received more than 200 units of service. Lone Star Cab provided veterans complimentary rides to Dress for Success Houston, and the Houston Symphony performed during a luncheon hosted by Walmart.



14 Corporations Participated

Associated Credit Union of Texas • Allied Barton Security Services • BB&T Bank • CenterPoint Energy, Inc. • City of Houston Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs • Comerica Bank • H&R Block • IBERIABANK • Phillips 66 • Tenaris • The Houstonian • United Airlines • University of Houston • Walmart



“I learned that even outside of the military, there is an army of individuals who are passionate about helping other women be successful.”
Yvonne F.—Navy Veteran

SINCE JUNE 2014, 388 VETERANS HAVE RECEIVED 1,100 UNITS OF SERVICE

PWG MEMBER SUCCESS STORY



ABOVE: Paula R. with her children at DFSH.

Paula's story is one of perseverance. She was the only one of six siblings to finish high school, but she knew that was not her stopping point. While in college and pregnant with her daughter, Paula became a widow. Her next relationship gave her a son, but ultimately did not work. She continued to provide for her family while attending school. Eventually, she completed her degree, but remained in dead end jobs.

When Paula joined the Professional Women's Group in 2012, she was living paycheck to paycheck to support her two children. By joining PWG, she saw an opportunity to develop the professional and personal skills she was lacking. Paula took advantage of the career development speaker series, sponsored by the Wayne Duddleston Foundation, to

build her skills; she committed to the 13-week Financial Literacy Program and started saving. More importantly, she learned balance, so that both work and her children received her best.

At the beginning of 2015, Paula was laid off because of downsizing. After faithfully attending PWG for three years, she had the confidence and tools to know what to do next. She attended Job Search workshops at DFSH to stay focused and refresh her job search skills. She landed a job at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and is in a better position than before! She has been paired with a mentor in the Women2Women Mentoring Program and is excited about this new chapter in her life.

Paula's son regularly attends our Child Watch while she is in meetings, and her daughter landed a job and joined PWG in November; it has truly become a family affair!



PWG Member Feedback

“PWG has given me so much more than a suit: it has taught me to be ambitious and given me the confidence and tools needed to know that I can accomplish my dreams.”



ABOVE: PWG members participating in the Wayne Duddleston Foundation speaker series.



ABOVE: The 13-week Financial Literacy Program 2015 graduates.

ALTMAN-GOLDSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Marisa Black
VIA Character Institute,
Coaching Certification

Blanca Cruz
Houston Community College, Business

Erica Davis
Houston Community College,
Human Resources Management

Stacey Guillory
Houston Community College, Accounting

Zaida Hernandez
University of Houston, Engineering

Latreena Hughes
Lone Star College, MBA

Joannell Jones-Wilson
Sam Houston University, MEd

Zeinab Kachmar
University of Houston Law Center, JD

Vera Love
Lone Star College, Marketing/Business

Michelle Monrial
APIC, Supply Chain Certificate

Paige Owens
Western Governors University, MBA

Cloenthia Orphey
Texas Teachers, Generalist Grades 5-8

Judy Pilgrim
Houston Community College, Mental Health

Chanda Polk
Houston Community College,
Business Management

Giavanna Rivera
University of Houston, Psychology

Maribel Rodriguez
Houston Community College,
Business Management

Senobia Rogers
Texas Southern University, History

Peggy Stephens
San Jacinto College,
Mental Health Services/Substance Abuse

Gwendolyn Varnado
University of St. Thomas,
Principals and Professional Leadership

Janella Ventura
Champions School of Real Estate, Realtor

Barbara Ware
DeVry University, MBA—Marketing

Shana Young
Houston Community College,
Business Management

Jennifer Zoufalik
Houston Community College, Accounting



For the 17th year, Dress for Success Houston celebrated client success stories and our generous supporters at the newly and aptly named, **Cuisine for a Cause**. Gathering at dusk for an outdoor ceremony, agency supporters were moved by a video sharing the impact Dress for Success has both locally and worldwide. The energy was amazing as guests participated in a moveable feast including culinary treats from Houston's top female chefs and restaurants. Dedicated patrons delighted in entertainment from local jazz musician **Kristine Mills** and New York City pianist **Jeff Franzel** and danced to tunes from **DJ London**. Chaired by **Shauna and Morris Clark** and **Kasey and Mark Dunn**, this incredible event raised \$375,000 to support our client service programs. Special thanks to our auction co-chairs **Alissa Maples** and **Virginia Steppe** for procuring fabulous auction items.



LEFT: We greatly appreciate our culinary collaborators:

Ana Amaya, Max's Wine Dive; Estefania Barrios, triniti; Ryan Bouillet, A Fare Extraordinaire; Jasmine Chida, SweetCup Artisan Gelato; Alyssa Dole, Coltivare; Stephanie Hoban, Ripe Food Truck; Anita Jaisinghani and Mary Gilliland, Pondicheri; Brandi Key, Coppa Osteria, Punk's Simple Southern Food and SaltAir Seafood Kitchen; Brandon Lampert, Corner Table; Rebecca Masson, Fluff Bake Bar; Sabra Palmros, Smith & Wollensky; Annie Rupani, Cacao & Cardamom; Claire Smith, Canopy; Erin Smith, Main Kitchen; Samantha Wright, Sweet & Mellow

Send ONE Suit MONTH March 2016



127 Companies
254 Drop-off sites
27,225 Professional Items

Above statistics represent results from S.O.S. Month 2015.

RECORDS ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN

SAVE THE DATE FOR S.O.S. MONTH. For more information about participating in S.O.S. Month in March 2016, please contact Valerie Carson at suitdrive@dfshouston.org or 713.337.0881.

Running for Dress for Success Houston



We are excited about our third year participating in **Chevron Houston Marathon's Run for a Reason**. Co-Chairs **Lauren Hanks, Amanda Johansen, Leah Rudnicki** and **James Tompkins** have been busy building an amazing team of 102 participants who have raised \$40,000 with a goal of \$150,000 by race day.

January 17, 2016: Cheer on our team at the race!

For information about being a volunteer cheerleader contact Nikki Rosenberg at R4R@dfshouston.org or 713.957.3785.



THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM MEMBERS!

Nora Al-Adwani • Sarah Al-Adwani • Brittney Baker • Glenn Bixler • Marla Blasé • Andrew Bluebond • Keysha Bobo • Laura Bohlmann • Chris Bradshaw • Paige Branam • Michele Brown • Lone Bunoe-Soerensen • Kim Cagle • Lorenza Carillo Villasenor • Theresa Carmouche • William Carsey • Chele Cary • Leland Cary • Erika Castro • Kathy Chomout • Terry Christian • Chantal Coronado • Linette Cotton • Kayla Demlow • Han Du • Emily Dunn • Shandale Eaglin • Kelly Evans • Mark Evans • Lindsey Ferrell • April Fischer • Jennifer Fox • Mary Garrett • Megan Gile • Debbie Greer • Sharon Griffin • Rita Hamilton • Lauren Hanks • Julie Hardin • Megan Haynes • Regan Hayward • Latreena Hughes • Elese Jackson • Amanda Johansen • Zeinab Kachmar • Rene Kaled • John Kaufman • Melissa Kessner • Debbie Klemcke • Kayla Knox • Leteisia Knox • Mary Ann Landry • Adriana Ledesma • Elmer Ledesma • Lauren Levicki Courville • Eboni Levier • Ellen Levin • Amy Lin • Johnathan Lopez • Kara Manser • Ginger Mason • Kim McCormick • Shandley McDougal • James Megna • Greg Mendez • Suzanne Mihaoglou • Lindsey Norlander • Ormand O'Neal • John Payne • Alethea Pettway • Paulette Phillips • Jeff Poore • Laurie Poore • Ann-Marie Rainey-Tenner • Paula Ramirez • Shayla Ramirez • Abdon Rangel • Nina Reznik • Alissa Riley • Danielle Rios • Giavanna Rivera • Hilda Marie Rivera • Monica Roberts • Leslie Robinson • Maribel Rodriguez • Nikki Rosenberg • Ann Ross • Leah Rudnicki • Ray Rudnicki • Maidie Ryan • Mike Sanchez • Susy Saravia • Alicia Sauls • Katy Sementelli • Danielle Shirley • Namrata Singh • Serena Sneeringer • Liz Stanley • Kandice Staudt • Heather Sturlese • Valeria Talavera • Hal Taylor • Regina Thomas-Garcia • Amanda Thorin • James Tompkins • Lesley Turcios • Kenya Valentine • Amber Veal • Bonnie Ward • Sandra Wilson • Debra Witges • Jackie Woudenberg • Jeff Young • Yolizma Zapata • Sharon Zenon-Williams • Jenni Zoufalik

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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STAR Volunteer

LINDA WEBB
FALL 2015, STAR VOLUNTEER

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF VOLUNTEERING WITH DFSH? To see the transformation that occurs when women are outfitted in professional attire. Many have never even seen themselves in a suit, and when they do, they break out into a smile, stand up straighter and have more confidence in themselves and their ability to get a job.

WHAT HAS BEEN A SPECIAL INTERACTION WITH A CLIENT? Several years ago, a client came in who was blind. I realized that I could not proceed like always and take her to look at the different colored suits available in her size. I asked her what she preferred, a pant or skirt suit and what color. She wanted a black pants suit and a pink blouse. I brought her several choices, and she would feel the texture to decide which one she liked best. I had no idea how much help she would need getting dressed, so I said to her, "You will have to help me by letting me know how I can best help you." I didn't want to over help—something that I have been known to do in other areas of my life. The client was very gracious and told me just what she needed from me. She found a suit that fit perfectly, a pink blouse with ruffles that she could feel, along with shoes and a purse.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING NAMED STAR VOLUNTEER? I feel both surprised and humbled—what an honor and a privilege! Professionally, I have spent 25 years coaching senior leaders and their teams on how to be more effective and fulfilled! Now, at DFSH, I get to be a designer and stylist.

THE CORPORATE GUILD

1. **Stacey Swift** and **Bob Devlin** of **Neiman Marcus** hosted **Lauren Levicki Courville** and **St. John** lead stylist **Lela Briggs** along with 100 Corporate Guild ladies for a fall fashion fete.
2. **Monisa Cline**, **Carlson Wagonlit Travel**, and **Tana Deshayes**, **Marathon Oil Corporation**, attending **Neiman Marcus St. John** event.
3. **Joni Baird**, **Chevron**, with **Nancy Levicki** at *A Night Out*.
4. Emcee **Rachel McNeill**, **KPRC 2** Anchor, with **John** and **Fetneh Dickinson**, **Dickinson by Design**, who donated a black pearl and diamond necklace to be raffled through a game of *Heads or Tails* at *A Night Out*.
5. **Genora Boykins** and **Karra Marino**, **Reliant**, an **NRG** company, at *A Night Out*.
6. **Rachel Steely**, **Kim Burrow** and **Lauren Sullivan**, **Gardere**, at *A Night Out*.
7. **Tracy Martin** and **Bonny McLoud**, **Gensler**, at *A Night Out*.
8. Ladies at the **PwC** table playing *Heads or Tails* for a chance to win a black pearl and diamond necklace.
9. **Cyndy Garza-Roberts**, **H-E-B**, and **Leticia Lowe**, **CenterPoint Energy, Inc.**, at *A Night Out*.
10. Members of the Corporate Guild modeling fashions from **Elizabeth Anthony** and **à bientôt** in a fashion show produced by **Cathy Fitzpatrick Cleary**.

WOMEN of WARDROBE

11. WOW members gathered at **Saks Fifth Avenue** for a cosmetics event featuring shopping, makeup trends and door prizes from **Chanel**, **Dior**, **Dolce and Gabbana**, **Laura Mercier**, **La Prairie**, and more.
12. Steering Committee member **DeDe King**, excitedly ordering her custom s'more from **Sweet & Mellow** at WOW's summer membership fiesta.
13. **Susan Oehl**, **Danielle Rios**, **Laura Bohlmann** and **Whitney Garibay** at an event hosted by **Kendra Scott**.
14. Event chair **Maria Vilchez Lowrey**, event chair **Shannon Addison**, jewelry designer **Claudia Lobao**, **Tootsies' Fady Armanious**, and event chair **Kendall Hanno** at **Tootsies' Sizzling Summer Soiree** featuring **Rachel Zoe** collection.
15. Emcee **Mia Gradney**, **KHOU 11** anchor, **Lauren Levicki Courville** and **Anna Boggs**, **Rachel Zoe** National Sales Director, in outfits from the featured collection at **Tootsies' Sizzling Summer Soiree**.



THANK YOU to Our Donors

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Societe Generale Corporate & Investment Banking
Standard Chartered Bank
Suzanne Bruce and Associates, PA
Talbots
Texas Aromatics, LP
TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company
Thiessen Law Firm
TNT Crane & Rigging, Inc.
Tootsies
Tulane University - Houston
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Reliant, an NRG company
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Skyline Art Services
Sullivan Group
Texas Aromatics LP
TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company
Toshiba International Corporation
Tulane University - Houston
United Airlines
Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.

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Shaunna and Timothy Adler
Holly Anderson
Hillary and Matthew Archer
Martha Armstrong
Karishma and Vic Asrani
Evelyn and Chris Aucoin
Holly and James Baker
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Phillip Bannon
Karen and Charles Baughn
Melissa Belcher
Paige and Saul Ben-Yaacov
Kate and Ed Bialas
Pamela and Hayne Blakely
Anthony Blanco
Lackland Bloom and Caitlin Davis
Joe Blount
Tali and Eric Blumrosen

Kristy and Chris Bradshaw
Linda and Kevan Brewster
Julie and Eric Broussard
Lauren Brownfield
Tiffany Buck
Rebecca Burdette
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Ruth Bush
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Stephanie Chesnick
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Alejandra Europa
Sukey Fenoglio
Berthica and Hugh Fitzsimons
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Sherril Foley
Ellen and Tommy Ford
Georganne and Skip Fortune
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Rachel McNeill and Dr. Wayne Franklin
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Kam Gandhi
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Loren Hill
Karen Hill
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Bonny McLoud
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IN-KIND

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Leprechaun Hard Cider
Main Kitchen
Alissa and Kevin Maples
Max Movers
George's Wine Dive
The Meritage Resort & Spa
Montage Laguna Beach
Neiman Marcus
Pageboy
The Pass & Provisions
Paul's Kitchen
Phoenix Design Group
Pondicheri
Punk's Simple Southern Food
Pura Vida Tequila
Ripe Cuisine
The Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne
The Ritz-Carlton Grand Lakes
The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Plantation, Oconee Lake
Royal Sonesta Hotel Houston
SaltAir Seafood Kitchen
Salvatore Ferragamo
Sephora
Skeeter's Mesquite Grill
Slim Ritas
Smith & Wollensky
Sprinkles Cupcakes
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The mission of Dress for Success Houston is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help women thrive in work and life.

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 Mimi Del Grande
 Kasey Dunn
 Cheri Fama
 Sukey Fenoglio
 Berthica Andrea Fitzsimons
 Diedra Fontaine
 Ellie Francisco
 Patti Garrison
 Jennifer Gatto
 Mia Gradney
 Fran Granger
 Lauren Grossbard
 Amy Hancock
 Julie Hardin
 Joanie Y. Hare, M.D.
 Lindsay Holstead
 Janis Jarosz
 Laura Johnson

Stephen LeJeune
 A. David Long, Jr.
 Phyllis Mandola
 Alissa Maples
 Kirby McCool
 Monica McNeill
 Rachel McNeill
 Trish Morille
 Flo Crady Newton
 Betty Newton
 Lauren Page
 Cinda Palacios
 Mary Patton
 Rebekah Reaves
 Bonnie Reitz
 Rebecca Roberts
 Roseann Rogers
 Candice Schiller
 Arthur L. Smith
 Kristin Smith
 Sydney Staley
 Virginia Steppe
 Steve Streller
 Susie Streller
 Phyllis Thomason
 Lynda Lighthouse Transier
 Joyce Tucker
 Kay Watson
 Janne Williams
 Lynne Williams
 Crystal C. Wright, M.D.
 Shira R. Yoshor

OUR *Wish* LIST:

- Professional portfolios
- Pant suits / Skirt suits
- Blouses / Sleeveless Shells
- Handbags
- Closed-toe shoes
- New, unopened knee-highs
- New, unopened pantyhose

All donations must be interview appropriate, cleaned, pressed and on hangers. While we accept items in all sizes, there is a *special need* for suits and blouses sizes 14 and up as well as shoes sizes 9 and up.

Clothing donations are accepted at our drop-off circle on the street side of our building, Monday through Friday, 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. and the first and second Saturday of each month, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Hilda Marie and Givanna are one of four mother-daughter duos in our Professional Women's Group taking part in educational classes to further their careers.



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