

SUMMER 2014

NEWS to SUIT YOU

A newsletter from Dress for Success Houston

Dear Friends,

If you are already part of the Dress for Success Houston journey, you have witnessed the **remarkable growth** in the number of women served, the second anniversary of our Eastside facility, and the recent launch of our state-of-the-art, interactive website, dfshouston.org

With each step, I reflect on the contributions of so many that have positioned us to fully embrace what I call **#beyondthesuit**—being **responsive** to our clients needs and **responsible** to our community.

Recognizing that nearly 30 percent of our clients need expanded assistance to gain employment; we launched our foundational pre-employment program *First Impressions*. In the first quarter, **30% of women who have attended *First Impressions* returned for a second suit** after landing a job.

Another aspect of **#beyondthesuit** is being accountable to supporters and attracting a new generation of donors and volunteers. The new website is already engaging visitors, and Eniver's substantial donation of its design has made funds available to upgrade our database. This **advanced database tracking will improve client and volunteer experiences**, increase the measurement of program outcomes and help place a value on services provided.

I invite you to join Dress for Success Houston as it continues **to look beyond the suit** to fully empower women to succeed and achieve long-term success. Check out our website for the opportunities to get involved, and save the date—October 18, 2014—for our fundraising celebration—**The Sky Is The Limit!**

Nancy S. Levicki

Nancy Levicki
President & Co-Founder



#BEYOND THESUIT

the next generation of Dress for Success Houston

ABOVE: Dress for Success Houston is expanding our reach **#beyondthesuit** to include pre-employment programs for women struggling to land jobs. The Chevron Career Center houses *First Impressions* interview preparation courses, resume workshops and LinkedIn classes.

BELOW: **Lauren Levicki Courville** with 2013/2014 Run for a Reason Chairs **Julie Hardin** and **Amy Hancock** after being awarded Best New Charity by **Kimberly Hall**.

LOWER LEFT: **Willie Stanfield** presenting **Stan Marrder** of Eniver with a Clean Sweep award at Models of Success.

LOWER RIGHT: **Nancy Levicki** and Chevron's **Wendy Daboval**, **Joni Baird**, **Roxanne Wisner**, **Susie Hebert** and **Michelle Young** at Models of Success.



Professional Women's Group (PWG)



ABOVE: Mentors and mentee pairs will read **Sheryl Sandberg's *Lean In*** as a conversation topic throughout their nine-month commitment.

WOMEN2WOMEN MENTORING PROGRAM

Interested in making a difference in the life of a woman? Be a mentor! The Women2Women Mentoring Program continues to be one of our most popular PWG programs – both with the mentors and PWG members. Forty-one mentor/mentee matches have already been made this year. **Due to the program's increasing popularity, we will be launching the program again this fall.**

We are seeking professional women with an ability to listen and an interest in helping a woman succeed in her work and life. If you are interested in learning how to become a mentor, contact Charie Hopkins at charie@dfshouston.org.

PWG Member Feedback

“*Dress for Success Houston* is a place I can go regardless of what is happening in my life or career. I know I will be supported, encouraged and never made to feel I should be ashamed of my stumbles or falls.”



ABOVE: Speaker, **Brittany King**, with PWG Members after her meeting on “Finding Your Voice.”

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST PROGRAMS

ONE YEAR, ONE JOB

April saw the launch of PWG's newest program, One Year, One Job (OYOJ). Developed by Dress for Success Houston and run by PWG alumnae members, OYOJ is a 90-day job retention program designed to **motivate and engage newly employed women during their transition into the workplace.** The program addresses many of the potential challenges faced by women in their first 90 days of employment and lays the foundation for future success. OYOJ also helps women in transition develop new networks by encouraging peer-to-peer support, among themselves as well as PWG alumnae.

LEGAL LITERACY

In January, we kicked off our new Legal Literacy Program which **promotes women's understanding of the law and their rights.** Lawyers from Houston's top law firms present quarterly workshops on legal topics such as knowing your rights as a worker, personal document planning, effectively navigating housing and tenant issues, patient rights, bankruptcy and family law. Many thanks to **Erica Krennerich** of **Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P.** for her leadership and guidance in helping to develop this new program.

PWG Member Feedback

“**I now know that I am smart enough, and am truly ready to advance in my career and in my life.**”

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Peggy's is a story of transformation, turning tragedy into a life of service. Her mother was murdered when she was a child. She grew up without much direction and by the time she was an adult, Peggy was seeking love and approval from men. On the morning of September 1, 1996, Peggy got into a car, after drinking heavily, and was involved in a crash that resulted in the loss of two lives. She spent nine years in prison where she worked on making amends and dedicating her life to helping other women. In 2006, Peggy left prison and slowly began rebuilding her life. She came to Dress for Success Houston in 2010 for an interview suit and a few months later, after landing a job at a treatment center for women, joined the Professional Women's Group. Peggy credits PWG with helping her grow into a better person. She is inspired by the volunteers who leave their lives for a few hours each week to support women on their journeys to self-sufficiency. She is encouraged by the women of PWG to use her voice and story in service to others. She is challenged by her mentor to pursue her dreams. And she is, indeed, doing just that. With the help of an Altman-Goldstein scholarship, Peggy will be going to school this fall to become a licensed chemical dependency counselor.



ACTIVE & INVOLVED PWG AT A GLANCE

RIGHT: Members of PWG crafting at the annual **Mother's Day Brunch.**



ABOVE: PWG taking a tour of the Saturday morning **Urban Harvest Farmer's Market.**



ABOVE: PWG members at **Financial Literacy Boot Camp** class.

ALTMAN-GOLDSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Desiree Adamson**
Houston Community College, Automotive Technology
- Dominique Agnew**
Texas Women's University, Executive MBA
- Ana Arreola**
Houston Community College, Liberal Arts
- 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, Mechanical Engineering
- Vera Love**
Lone Star College, Human Resources Management
- Michelle Monrial**
Brazilian Arts Foundation, Portuguese
- Paige Owens**
Western Governors University, Health Information Management
- Kimm Perez**
Capella University, PhD in Psychology
- Judy Pilgrim**
Houston Community College, Social Work
- Sheilah Powell**
North American College, Associates in Arts
- Dorothy Prejean**
Houston Community College, Business
- Mindy Ramnanansingh**
Kaplan University, Healthcare Administration
- Monica Rockward**
Houston Community College, Teacher's Certification
- Danesa Ruiz**
University of Houston, MA Sociology
- Patricia Salinas**
Lone Star College, Mechanical Engineering
- Susana Saravia**
Houston Community College, Education
- Gwendolyn Varnado**
Walden University, EdD
- Barbara Ware**
Houston Community College, Nursing
- Jacqueline Wickliffe**
Rice University, Fund Development Certificate
- Jennifer Zoufalik**
Houston Community College, Accounting



“For the first time since I’ve been home, this is the first company I’ve encountered that actually cares for and helps female veterans.”
—Artesia R.

VETERAN’S SUITING DAY

25 Veterans Served

13 Army

7 Navy

3 Air Force

2 Marines

Human Resource Professionals from Chase, Bank of America, MD Anderson and Corporate America Supports You (CASY) were on-site conducting in-depth interview preparation and resume analysis sessions.



PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

First Impressions prepares clients for upcoming interviews.

Job Search 101 teaches clients to successfully navigate topics such as planning and productivity, setting career objectives and overcoming obstacles.

Job Search Teams assists job seekers through networking, group motivation and accountability.

Job Search Skills aids clients in broadening their job search skills through: Mock Interviews, Resume Writing and The Power of LinkedIn.

30% of Job Search 101 attendees have landed jobs, including: flight attendant, oil and gas accountant and sheriff’s deputy.



TIME TO GET TECHNICAL

We are pleased to announce that we launched our new website in January 2014, www.dfshouston.org.

Thank you to **Eniver** for the incredible gift of developing this beautiful website! It truly portrays the vastness of all that we are accomplishing at Dress for Success Houston. This donation has made the funds available to improve the **agency database** which will enhance scheduling capabilities, client and volunteer tracking and **increase the ability to track and measure meaningful program outcomes** through time period reports.

Get Social—Share your stories, passion and photos on Dress for Success Houston’s social media channels:



#beyondthesuit



SAVE the DATE

The Sky Is The Limit
Saturday, October 18, 2014 » 6 pm - 10 pm
Dress For Success Houston » 3310 Eastside Street

CHAIRS

Kristy & Chris Bradshaw » Rebekah & Gary Reaves

AUCTION CHAIRS

Alissa Maples and Virginia Steppe

HONORING

Eniver and Judson Design

FOR more INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Anne McAllister » anne@dfshouston.org » 713.337.0879



RUN FOR A REASON: TEAM DFSHOUSTON

We are pleased to announce that Team DFSHouston was awarded “Best New Charity” by the Chevron Houston Marathon Run for a Reason committee. What an honor for our first year in this new campaign. We hosted a successful team recruiting event on June 11. Our goals are set—to date we have 47 team members with a goal of 200! Please join chairs **Linda Crosby, Kaylan Dunn, Leah Rudnicki** and **Amanda Watson** and be a part of our winning team!



ABOVE: **Inita**, Professional Women’s Group member, at Team DFSHouston’s cheer station on race day.



ABOVE: Co-chairs **Linda Crosby** and **Leah Rudnicki** with **Lauren Levicki Courville** and co-chair **Amanda Watson** at the Team DFSHouston recruiting party.

SAVE THE DATE!

If you are interested in running, jogging or walking the full Chevron Marathon or Aramco Half Marathon, join us at our next **Team DFSHouston Recruiting Party** on September 24th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at 3310 Eastside.

For more information, please contact Lauren Levicki Courville at R4R@dfshouston.org.



TOP: Nancy Levicki with the members of Phillips 66 Women's Initiative at Models of Success.

ABOVE: Carol Burke and Julie Hardin of Reed Smith LLP at Power Breakfast.

BELOW: Leah Cast of Galveston Chamber of Commerce and Joy Sewing of Houston Chronicle at Saks Fifth Avenue.

LOWER: Erin Garza, Jessica Strauss, Pamela Brylski, Annie Shen and Melanie Mabry at WOW's Annual Spring Fling.



CORPORATE GUILD

CORPORATE NETWORKING FOR A CAUSE

MARCH | More than 150 supporters from 57 companies gathered at Dress for Success Houston to celebrate our special event, *Models of Success*, which recognizes corporate **Clean Sweep Sponsors**, for their generous support during **Send One Suit (S.O.S.) Week**. The crowd was moved to tears by emcee, **Sharron Melton**, as she told the success stories of eight women from the Professional Women's Group and shared their journeys overcoming obstacles on their pathway to self-sufficiency. A huge thank you to **Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P.** for sponsoring this favorite Corporate Guild event for the 11th year!

RIGHT: President of the Corporate Guild, **Kasey Dunn** of PwC, **Leticia Garza** and **Janiece Longoria** of Port of Houston Authority with **Nancy Levicki**.

MAY | The **Four Seasons Hotel Houston** hosted the 8th annual Corporate Guild Power Breakfast featuring keynote speaker, **Janiece Longoria**, Chairman of the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority. In her speech entitled, "Madam Chairperson : A Future View," Longoria delivered a historical account of our port – the largest in the nation - as well as highlighting future growth and the impact this expansion will have on our city.



WOMEN of WARDROBE (WOW)

STYLISHLY SETTING THE TREND OF GIVING

MARCH | On Saturday afternoon, March 29, more than 220 co-ed young professionals gathered at **Taps House of Beers** for WOW's 9th Annual Spring Fling presented by **Audi Central Houston**. Guests were greeted and "cheered" on by **Houston Texans Cheerleaders**, and the energy stayed high and fun all day in the gorgeous weather! The afternoon was filled with fun games, amazing raffle packages (think a weekend at **The Houstonian**, a custom **David Peck** dress, a weekend at **Deer Lake Resort**, custom **Q Clothier** shirts, **Paris Texas Apparel** and so much more!) cold drinks and tasty bites from **Bonjour Creperie**, **The Hay Merchant**, **Sprinkles Cupcakes** and **Blue Label Vodka**. Special thanks to our sponsors; **Audi Central Houston**, **Worthit.co**, **Jenkins & Kamin LLP**, **Plains All American GP LLC**, **The**

Thiessen Law Firm, **Corporate Retreats International**, **French Cuff Boutique**, **Weyer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuper, P.C.**, **Sue & Gary Hanna** and **Mark Moseley**.

MAY | On Wednesday, May 14, WOW members gathered at local fashion designer **David Peck's** studio for an intimate event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

Sizzling Summer Soiree at Tootsies

October

A Night Out with Kendra Scott

November

A Conversation with Elaine Turner

For information about events or joining WOW, please contact Nikki Rosenberg at wow@dfshouston.org, 713.957.3785.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

would like to thank our 2014 Clean Sweep Corporations and suit drive participants for their generous support of S.O.S Week



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119 Companies
255 Drop-off sites
22,472 Items of clothing



STAR Volunteer

DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON IS PROUD TO NAME **KAREN BLOOMFIELD** AS OUR SPRING 2014 STAR VOLUNTEER!

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF VOLUNTEERING? I love seeing the transformation that takes place in just one hour of working with a client. Women walk in and it's clear that they don't feel confident, but then they find the perfect suit and it's a total turn around. You can see it in their eyes, they just know they are going to get the job.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT INTERACTION WITH A CLIENT? I remember one woman that did not like any suit we tried. I assured her that we would find something, and she said, "I'm sorry to be so picky, but my ex took everything from me and I just want something that is right for me." It reminded me that everyone is walking their own path, and we must always be sensitive and recognize we might not know a woman's circumstances.

HOW DO YOU FEEL WE IMPACT THE COMMUNITY? This incredible organization takes clothing people no longer need and gives it to someone who does. These women are at such a pivotal point in their lives knowing they are about to get a job. That's where Dress for Success Houston really helps them out beyond the suit.

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The mission of Dress for Success Houston is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

OUR *Wish* LIST:

- **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 A.M. to 4 P.M. and the first and second Saturday of each month, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Since joining the Professional Women's Group, Ronke has been promoted from part-time to a full-time case manager and received a raise. She has gained a wealth of knowledge and new skills that have helped her grow and see the possibilities of what she can achieve – both for herself and her community.



www.dfs-houston.org
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