Dear Friends,

Dress for Success affiliates across the state kicked off the new year at the Governor’s Mansion in Austin. We shared success stories with First Lady of Texas, Cecilia Abbott, who recognized our life-changing work helping female veterans transition into civilian life.

Dress for Success Houston (DFSH) is on track to double the number of veterans impacted and place over 50% of the nearly 3,000 women we serve annually, providing them with tools to help them thrive in work and life.

Your generosity allows us to continue to meet the increasing need for assistance. Your enthusiastic support during Big Give Houston, coupled with matching gifts from our Board of Directors, raised more than $30,000 in just a few hours! Our volunteers, staff and patrons landed us at the top of the leaderboard in total giving.

We are humbled by this kind of recognition, and honored by Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg, founding director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University. In the Houston Business Journal, Klineberg said: “I know of no other organization in this city that is more effective than DFSH in transforming the opportunities and life trajectories of underserved members of our community.”

If you are not yet a supporter of DFSH, I invite you to join us today as a donor, mentor, volunteer or career educator—together we can positively impact countless women, their families and our community.

With Gratitude,

Nancy S. Levicki
President & Co-Founder
Professional **Women’s Group (PWG)**

**2015 END OF YEAR SURVEY**

182 respondents | completed Dec. 2015

Outcomes:

- 40% Promoted
- 17% Received a raise

Impact:

- 95% Can afford regular meals
- 88% More self-confident
- 80% Self-sufficient
- 75% Satisfied with life

Noteworthy:

- 27% of first year members receive public assistance which significantly decreases to only 4% after women have participated in PWG for three or more years.

PWG Member Feedback

"I have updated my resume, learned how to keep a budget, and changed the way I shop at the grocery store to include healthier options. PWG has improved my professional life as well as my personal life."

**LEGAL LITERACY** Will-a-Thon

Dress for Success Houston has partnered with Vinson & Elkins for the last three years to offer Legal Literacy programs to PWG members. With additional help and support from Houston Volunteer Lawyers, our program expanded this year to offer our first Legal Clinic. The Will-a-Thon enabled 28 PWG members to meet one-on-one with an attorney to draft, execute, and notarize their personal documents. At the end of the two-session clinic, every PWG member had a fully executed will!

PWG Member Feedback

"Speak for Success has made me aware of the ‘crutch’ words I use when speaking – and even writing – and how those words can make me sound unsure of myself and my message. Mia clearly cares about DFSH and the PWG. I truly feel better prepared to speak for success!"

**FINANCIAL LITERACY** Program

PWG’s Financial Literacy Program continues to grow, empowering more women to make informed financial decisions as they work towards self-sufficiency. Thirty-five women dedicated a full day to learning the “ins and outs” of credit and debt during the Spring Financial Literacy Boot Camp thanks to a partnership with IBC. Later in the summer, PwC will lead a second Financial Literacy Boot Camp covering all topics related to financial health. Both boot camps make an ideal foundation for the 13-week course that kicks off this fall.
Karma came to DFSH while going through a difficult divorce. After 22 years of marriage and extensive time being a stay at home mom, she found herself responsible for supporting five children on her own. Karma had run several small businesses while she was working from home, but nothing that would support her whole family. When she was referred to DFSH, all she was hoping for was a suit to get her through an upcoming interview. She never imagined it would be the beginning of a journey that would change her life.

Karma quickly landed a job after her first appointment and joined the Professional Women’s Group (PWG) the very next weekend. She credits her first PWG meeting on The Oz Principle with teaching her how to move out of the victim role and take control of the situations she could. One Year, One Job, PWG’s 90-day job retention program, continued to build on that foundation of empowerment which led to one of the fastest promotions in her department! After only two and a half months, Karma was promoted to Project Coordinator at TH Hill Associates, Incorporated.

Now she is sharing the value of professional development outside of DFSH. Karma saw a need for professional development in her department at work and pitched the idea of regular meetings on a variety of professional development topics to her supervisor. Karma’s pitch was so well received that her department started regular professional development meetings earlier this year. Karma says that within PWG she found a group to help her rebuild her confidence and that today her children see her as a stable provider. She no longer feels like a victim – she is confident, empowered and in control of her life!

### ALTMAN-GOLDSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marisa Black</th>
<th>VIA Character Institute, Coaching</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blanca Cruz</td>
<td>Houston Community College, Business</td>
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<td>Erica Davis</td>
<td>Houston Community College, Human Resources Management</td>
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<td>Stacey Guillory</td>
<td>Houston Community College, Accounting</td>
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<td>Zaida Hernandez</td>
<td>University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<td>Latreena Hughes</td>
<td>Sam Houston University, Education</td>
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<td>Joannell Jones-Wilson</td>
<td>Sam Houston University, Education</td>
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<td>Zeinab Kachmar</td>
<td>University of Houston Law Center, J.D.</td>
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<td>Vera Love</td>
<td>Lone Star College, Business Administration</td>
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<td>Michelle Monrial</td>
<td>APIC, Supply Chain Certificate</td>
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<td>Cloynthia Orphey</td>
<td>Texas Teachers, Generalist 5-8</td>
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<td>Paige Owens</td>
<td>Western Governors University, Business Administration</td>
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<td>Giavanna Rivera</td>
<td>University of Houston, Psychology</td>
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<td>Judy Pilgrim</td>
<td>Houston Community College, Mental Health</td>
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<td>Chanda Polk</td>
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<td>Manibel Rodriguez</td>
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<td>Senobia Rogers</td>
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<td>Susana Saravia</td>
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<td>Peggy Stephens</td>
<td>San Jacinto College North, Mental Health Services/Substance Abuse</td>
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<td>Gwendolyn Varnado</td>
<td>University of St. Thomas, Med-Education</td>
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<td>Janelia Ventura</td>
<td>Champions School of Real Estate, Realtor</td>
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<td>Barbara Ware</td>
<td>DeVry University, MBA Marketing</td>
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<td>Shana Young</td>
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<td>Jennifer Zoufalk</td>
<td>Houston Community College, Accounting</td>
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### ACTIVE INVOLVED

**PWG AT A GLANCE**

**ABOVE:** Slalom consultants facilitating the PWG meeting topic, “Working Effectively as Teams.”

**ABOVE:** Former Houston Texan, Wade Smith, surprised PWG members and their families at Mother’s Day brunch to share his children’s book, *Smitty Hits the Play Books.*
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Notable in 2015:

51% of the 2,652 women served gained employment, up from 37% in 2014 and 24% in 2013.

12,000 units of service facilitated: A unit of service is every touchpoint during a woman’s journey, including professional attire, interview preparation, pre-employment tools, networking and career education.

Year to Date 2016:

53% of the more than 1,400 women served year to date have gained employment.

Healthcare: The top industry in which our clients land jobs.

Client Profiles:

26% have experienced some form of domestic abuse
42% of the women are classified as homeless
80% are single
99% shared that DFSH prepared them to secure employment

GOING GREEN

Building on the agency’s recent LEED Certification, 44 new solar panels will help reduce our carbon footprint and enhance our sustainability efforts in Houston.

Highlights:

• The installation was funded by a $30,000 donation from Reliant, an NRG company, and a $7,000 in-kind donation from Alba Energy
• 14,627 kWh will be offset annually, which is approximately 15% of DFSH’s annual electricity usage
• Over the next 25 years, 310 metric tons of CO2 will be offset by the use of the solar panels

DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON U.S. VETERANS PROGRAMS

140 Veterans Served
80 Army
33 Navy
19 Air Force
8 Marines

“Continue to do what you do for us veterans. We appreciate all of it!”
– Janiel, U. S. Navy

“I was confused and nervous, but the staff made me feel so special.”
– Kathy, U. S. Army

Since 2014, Dress for Success Houston is proud to have served over 600 female veterans! In 2016, DFSH increased our Veteran Service Days from quarterly to bi-monthly. Partnering with HR professionals and representatives from CHI St. Luke’s, Employer Flexible, Lloyd’s Banking Group, UT Health and Waffle House, vets honed their resumes and interview skills. These specialized efforts also serve as networking opportunities to exchange contact information and share stories of their experiences in the military and life beyond the uniform.

LEFT: Clients attending our “The Power of LinkedIn” hosted in the Chevron Career Center. Attendees build or improve their existing profiles, learn helpful tips and receive a digital headshot.
My family is so proud of me, especially my mother. I am the first in my family to get a degree and this is very special to me. My niece phones me every night for help with her homework. It makes me so proud. – Barbara

DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON

WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR 2016 CLEAN SWEEP CORPORATIONS AND SUIT DRIVE PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF S.O.S. MONTH

KIM MCCORMICK

SPRING 2016, STAR VOLUNTEER

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF VOLUNTEERING? Being part of our clients’ journey from their first phone call, to finding the perfect suit, landing the job, and then joining PWG. Seeing the confidence, determination, and pride grow with each step of their transition is powerful. Dress for Success Houston operates like a family unit providing a nurturing environment that empowers its members.

DESCRIBE A SPECIAL INTERACTION WITH A CLIENT:
I had the privilege of preparing a Veteran client for a fashion show. She was nervous and shared that after thirteen years of military service she was apprehensive about selecting career outfits. However, once we completed the selection, along with beautiful accessories, she was pleased. She smiled...mission accomplished!

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING NAMED STAR VOLUNTEER?
I was overwrought with emotion! It is such an honor to be recognized with an award for doing something that brings me so much joy.

I’m so proud to be part of the Dress for Success family helping women reach their dreams.
THE CORPORATE GUILD

1. Nancy Levicki with Wendy Daboval, Joni Baird and Maria Lindenberg of Chevron, SOS Presenting Sponsor for the 11th year at Models of Success.

2. Karen Duddlesten with Jim and Jerri Moore of the Wayne Duddlesten Foundation, which generously underwrites our Women2Women Mentoring program, attended Models of Success and were able to meet women impacted by their funding.

3. Crowd listening to a Models of Success client success story.


5. Rebekah and Gary Reaves at Models of Success.

6. Corporate Guild president, Staci Voll of Texas Aromatics, engaged the crowd at the Four Seasons Hotel Houston to attend A Night Out at River Oaks Country Club on November 16.

7. Corporate Guild members at the Power Breakfast hosted by the Four Seasons Hotel Houston.

8. Lauren Levicki Courville and Nancy Levicki joined by Elizabeth Killinger, Genora Boykins and Maria Lowrey from Reliant, an NRG company at the Four Seasons Power Breakfast.


WOMEN of WARDROBE

11. Threauxdown IV co-hosts Jorge Patino of Eat for a Cause and Buck Baker of Jackson’s Watering Hole.

12. Hilary Baars and Alyssa Aboloff of Sullivan Group shopped during Fiesta Like There’s No Mañana hosted by Baanou.

13. New WOW members learn more about how to get involved with DFSH during the annual Spring Fling at The Owl Bar.


15. Michelle Kobelan (2015-2016 WOW President) and Susan Oehl (2016-2017 WOW President) during WOW’s annual Spring Fling hosted at The Owl Bar, raising more than $17,000 for DFSH programs.
SAVE the DATE

SATURDAY  10.15.16

DRESS for SUCCESS HOUSTON  X  3310 EASTSIDE STREET

CHAIRS
Mary & Ben Patton
Rachael & Jason Volz

AUCTION CHAIRS
Alissa Maples & Virginia Steppe

HONORING
A Fare Extraordinaire

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
Anne McAllister
anne@dfshouston.org
713.337.0879

RUN FOR A REASON: TEAM DFSHouston

Run for a Reason team members crossed the finish line on January 17, 2016! Thanks to their efforts, $94,122 was raised to support Dress for Success Houston’s programs. Our 2016-2017 goals are set—150 full and half marathoners and 200 5K team members. Please join co-chairs Amanda Johansen, Shell Oil Company, Kim Cagle, Reed Smith, Chris Bradshaw, Era Group, Lauren Hanks, The Houstonian Club, and Maidie Ryan, Ascend Performance Materials, to be a part of our winning teams.

SAVE THE DATE!

If you are interested in running, jogging or walking the full Chevron Marathon, Aramco Half Marathon or the ABB 5K, join us at our Team DFSHouston Boot Camp on September 17 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at The Houstonian (R.S.V.P. required by September 14).

For more information, please contact Christina Forgetta at R4R@dfshouston.org.
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.

Our Wish List:

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

All donations must be interview appropriate, clean, pressed and on hangers. While we accept items in all sizes, there is a special need for suits and blouses sizes 0 to 4 and 14+ as well as handbags and shoes sizes 10 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.