

The latest news from Dress for Success Palm Beaches

Dress for Success Palm Beaches, Inc. <palmbeaches-dressforsuccess.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

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To:Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>



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March/April 2024

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Executive Director's Corner

Hello Supporters & Friends:

Spring has sprung. And so did a West Palm Beach water main on, of all days, Friday, March 15th, the date of "Style for Hope."

The gushing geyser caused a serious flood in the Kravis Center garage where guests were parked. But, it was a minor disruption to our major fundraising luncheon that netted us nearly \$255,000 – 13% more than last year! Most vehicles were unscathed, but several of our volunteers and attendees waded through the knee-high water to rescue their cars and ended up missing the proceedings (including, sadly, our Volunteer of the Year, Laura Mindell). Nonetheless, the event was a hit! The audience was rapt as our featured client Rose Clark's story of transformation from domestic abuse, homelessness, and despair to a restored real estate career and hopeful future unfolded in a brief video. Delivering a few words of thanks from the podium, she commented that Dress for Success was better to her than any husband could be. Hers was a hard act to follow, but our Style Icon honorees Tommy Hilfiger and Dee Ocleppo Hilfiger were extremely engaging in their onstage interview with WPTV anchor Shannon Cake, our amazing emcee. They discussed some very personal family as well as business revelations and underscored the commitment they share with DFSPB to the empowerment of women. We



are deeply grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, donors and all attendees who made this stellar 10th anniversary edition of “Style for Hope” possible. (See photos below.)

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As announced at “Style for Hope,” later this year we’ll be moving to a new and larger location at River Bridge Center, Forest Hill Boulevard and Jog Road in Greenacres. The space is double what we now occupy, enabling us to accommodate our growing enrollment in Road to Success and many other programs. Its accessibility is unbeatable: The shopping center is a bus stop for both north-south and east-west routes. What’s more, surrounded by so many other commercial businesses – stores, restaurants, health clubs – that operate well into the evening, we’ll be able to safely extend our own hours of service, which we know will be an attractive benefit for many of our clients.

Mark your calendars...Friday, April 12th and Saturday, April 13th...it’s our Spring Sale and that means very significant savings on very popular brands, such as Armani, Coach, Michael Kors and Kate Spade. A recent deluge of clothing donations (now that’s the kind of flooding we don’t mind) has yielded a whole new crop of fashion finds. Sale hours are Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at our 2459 South Congress Avenue Boutique.

Also coming up in April: The next 6-week term of Road to Success begins Wednesday, April 17. On Friday, April 19, we will be relaunching Keys to Success, a series of workshops offering CEU credits. Learn more about these personal development opportunities by contacting Jodi Cutler, jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org, 561-249-3898.

I hope your March Women’s History Month was as meaningful as ours.

Forever grateful,

Joe Ann Fletcher

Joe Ann Fletcher
Executive Director
Dress for Success Palm Beaches

**A Message from
our Board President**

Lana Blackman



Greetings DFSPB Family,

Wow! Words cannot express how amazing the record breaking 2024 Style for Hope Luncheon was, led by the dynamic duo Co-chairs, Esther Perman and Denise O'Sullivan along with a stellar planning committee. This signature event was laced with the unimaginable and fully executed like no other. A big round of applause to this team and for the support of the Dress for Success Palm Beaches staff and Board of Directors for a monumental 10th year of the luncheon. I'd also like to express my sincere appreciation to our wonderful client spotlight, Rose Clark, WPTV News Channel 5 Anchor Shannon Cake, previous style icons who continue to support us, and of course our 2024 Style Icons, Tommy Hilfiger and Dee Ocleppo Hilfiger for their amazing contributions and support. Thank you!

The Style for Hope Luncheon, and all of our programs, align with our mission: The mission of Dress for Success is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. We strive to keep our mission at the forefront and make sure we empower women!

We recently had a very productive and successful staff and Board of Directors retreat. It was chock full of great ideas, methodologies and strategies that will make a positive impact and difference in the lives of the women we serve. A special thanks to our facilitator, Charlotte Pelton from Charlotte Pelton & Associates, Inc. We're excited about the trajectory of the organization and are looking forward to fully executing our one to three year strategic plan.

Let's keep the momentum going strong and please share your experience with others about Dress for Success Palm Beaches. By simply sharing your positive testimonials, you can help us galvanize support so we can further our efforts in Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties.

Always remember to thrive!

Lana Blackman



Thank You!

AN EPIC 2024 STYLE FOR HOPE

\$255,000 raised – thanks to you – at the March 15th “Style for Hope” luncheon! What a way to mark the 10th anniversary of the event.

Tommy Hilfiger and Dee Ocleppo Hilfiger, recipients of our Style Icon award, helped to deliver our message of the importance of empowering women. Their onstage interview with emcee Shannon Cake, the WPTV news anchor, offered candid snippets from their personal and business lives. Guests were especially moved when we introduced Rose Clark, our featured client, who bravely shared her heartbreaking story of overcoming domestic abuse, financial ruin, and homelessness, and how, thanks to Dress for Success Palm Beaches, her life had been transformed. It was a “standing O” for Rose, who kept her kids safe through it all, persevered to return to a career in real estate, and has regained her confidence and sense of self-worth.



We are deeply grateful to those of you who joined us in person as well as those who support us from afar as donors...sponsors...volunteers...grant funders...partner agencies. YOU helped us raise the dollars. YOU helped us raise the bar. YOU helped us reach this epic milestone. THANK YOU.

Photo Credits: Tracey Benson Photography



Photo Credits: Tracey Benson/Tyler Benson

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2024 Spring Pop Up Sale

Friday, April 12, 11am - 7pm

Saturday, April 13, 10am - 5pm

DFSPB Palm Springs Boutique

**Style for Hope 2025 | Friday, March 7th
Kravis Center**



Young Executives for Success (YES) News

EMPOWERING SIP & PAINT



Our Young Executives for Success (YES!) volunteer and professional networking group supports the mission of Dress for Success Palm Beaches. We strive to empower career-focused women by creating meaningful connections through year-round events.

Our recent Sip & Paint event was filled with laughter, creativity, and connection, as we celebrated women's empowerment during Women's History Month!



Empowered Women, Empower Women

Joe Ann Fletcher, our Executive Director, pictured in the center, contributed her leadership and expertise to the event, playing a pivotal role in crafting an enjoyable and memorable experience for attendees while advancing DFSPB's goals.

If you're interested in joining the YES! committee, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We welcome your involvement!



Meet the Dream Team

Featured below is our team who turned the idea of a Sip & Paint event into a reality!

- Top Left - Victoria Velez, Co-Chair and Director of Operations at DFSPB.
- Top Center - Alexandra Shatara, Co-Chair and Boutique Manager of our Belle Glade Branch.
- Top Right - Haydee Carvalho, Outreach Coordinator, who brings incredible energy and commitment to YES! building YES!
- Bottom Left - Marsha Thelusme, Intern.
- Bottom Right - Morgan Anderson, Intern.

Scholarship Awards



YES! Palm Beaches is excited to announce that we are currently organizing a Scholarship Awards dinner for Dress for Success Palm Beaches!

We encourage women to apply and look forward to supporting their educational endeavors. To learn more about eligibility and criteria, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Event!

May 7

5:30-8:30 PM



2023 Annual Report Now Available

An essential of every type of business, an Annual Report is especially vital for a nonprofit in helping define for prospective funders and donors the impact of their giving. It's our primary accountability tool.

The 14-page DFSPB 2023 Annual Report, which was fully produced in-house, is now available in a print edition as well as digital.



Take a peek [here](#).



Introducing the Speakers Bureau

The impossibility of cloning our remarkable DFSPB staff has led at long last to the creation of our Speakers Bureau. It was formed, in part, to respond to increasing requests from numerous groups, businesses, and organizations to have a DFSPB rep appear at their meetings or events and introduce their members to all that we do for the empowerment of women. Our new dream team also was assembled as we more aggressively conduct community outreach and expand the delivery of our message and services to Martin and Broward counties.

Debbie Freire, a longtime volunteer, is heading this initiative, and the other volunteer ambassadors on call for speaking engagements currently include: Tamera Atkins, Joanne Cresap, Linda Fisher, Paula Howard, Linda Jackson, Michelle Jaquez, Cathy Kasten, Tracy Kawa, Gretchen May, Gail Miller, Laura Mindell, Mindy Mora, Nilda Morales, Pam Rada, Nancy Rizzuto, Rhonda Russell, Henny Santo, Harmony Surinach, Sherry Thompson, and Andrene Williams.

Interested in joining? Contact Debbie Freire at (908) 809-3322 or Jodi Cutler at (561) 249-3898.

Additional Ways to

SUPPORT US



**Help Ensure Our Future by Becoming a
Member of the Circle of Impact**

Our Circle of Impact is a select group of current and former business leaders who have pledged an annual minimum donation of \$1,000. Members are acknowledged for their generosity, their names appearing on a distinctive plaque at our headquarters, plus they enjoy several exclusive perks throughout the year. View our flyer [here](#) for more information or to donate, please visit our [website](#).

Company Matching Grants

Many organizations offer a company match program for donations made by their employees to nonprofit organizations, and some even offer volunteer grants. If your employer offers such programs, please consider requesting a donation to Dress for Success Palm Beaches.

Charitable Bequest

Leave a legacy! Please consider adding a charitable bequest to our organization to your will. **Be sure to designate our organization by our full name: Dress for Success Palm Beaches.**



[Donate](#)

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DRESS FOR SUCCESS PALM BEACHES



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