

## The latest news from Dress for Success Palm Beaches

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

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To:Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>



# Monthly News



**September 2023**

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**Congratulations Ellen Gorringe**

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## Executive Director's Corner

Hello supporters and friends:

There's lots of news to share, so I'll get right to it.

Road to Success resumes on October 4, and the six-week series, is jam-packed with an inspiring curriculum and expert presenters. It promises not only to help prepare participants for their job interviews but, more importantly, provide a mega-dose of self-esteem. Another great feature of RTS: Our volunteer mentors – primarily seasoned business pros, some retired some not – who interact with the participants, bond with them, and make sure they're on track in their empowerment journey. Many mentors return term-after-term because it's such a rewarding experience. Perhaps you or someone you know would like to be a volunteer mentor? Contact [jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org](mailto:jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org) to learn more.

Frankly, RTS requires funding. And though we're fortunate to receive some incredibly generous grants from multiple resources, money raised from initiatives like our Pop-Up sales also helps with the expense. So, the weeks of planning and hours of physical labor required to convert our boutique into our recent Overstock Sale literally paid off. Co-chairs Rhonda Russell and Marlene Feldman brought strategic marketing vision to the three-day spree, which saw more than 300 shoppers and netted us close to \$40,000! Thank you to all volunteers who worked the event and to those of you who purchased some of the

# Business Partners



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irresistible bargains, contributing to this latest success.

There's no exaggerating how vital and valuable volunteers are to DFSPB, and we're mindful of continually acknowledging their involvement and expressing our gratitude. We hosted more than 40 at our recent volunteer appreciation event, citing 11 standouts with special awards and making sure each guest received a long-stemmed red rose. Our latest Volunteer of the Month/August is Tammera Atkins; read about her in the salute below.

Speaking of outstanding volunteers, Ellen Gorrige whose experience as an HR executive has benefitted DFSPB since she first walked through our doors 7 years ago, is in the running for Woman Volunteer of the Year, the prestigious award presented the past 37 years by the Junior League of Boca Raton. She's the perfect DFSPB representative having been a mentor, coach, and catalyst for the creation of our Scholarship Program, which she now heads. The awards ceremony is November 10. Sooner, on October 3, we have three nominees for the Hats Off Awards presented by Nonprofits First. Rhonda Russell is up for Volunteer of the Year, yours truly is a candidate for Executive Director of the Year, and DFSPB might have a shot at bringing home another Hats Off Nonprofit of the Year – it won in 2021 in the category of small-size organizations and this time qualified in the medium-size division.

Circle of Impact members – those who've contributed minimally \$1,000 this past year – will gather on Thursday, September 28, at Haven Palm Beach Art Gallery, for an evening of bubbly, hors d'oeuvres, and networking. It's the first in a series of events planned in the coming months to show appreciation for those donors whose monetary pledges are at significantly high levels.

Finally, we have two blushing brides in our midst! Sincere congratulations to Alex Ramos, Belle Glade boutique manager, and to Victoria Cruz, our director of operations. Alex tied the knot with longtime boyfriend Atta Shatara. Newlywed Victoria and her wife Adanis Velez are finally enjoying their honeymoon.

Love is in the air.

*Joe Ann Fletcher*

**Joe Ann Fletcher, M.Ed., ABD**  
Executive Director

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## **A Message from our Board President**

*Lana Blackman*



Greetings DFSPB Family!

It's with great pleasure and humility that I'm able to express my sincere gratitude for the smooth transition to Board Chair. I've been warmly welcomed by all and I'm truly looking forward to continuing the amazing transformative work that has already been in motion. A special thanks to my predecessors Bridjette Sheflo and Pam Rada, the Dress for Success Palm Beaches staff, Board of Directors, and wonderful volunteers who have welcomed me with open arms.

The mission of DFSPB 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. This mission is always at the forefront of our agenda, and we're excited about what's on the horizon.

Currently we're in the midst of revitalizing all of our committees and making sure our goals continue to line up with our mission. We plan to strengthen our Business Advisory Council and Public Relations committees in the next 60 days. By developing new ways to reach the masses and showcase what we do, we will in turn increase funding, awareness and ultimately service our clients.

We're also making sure our presence is known in Belle Glade and will continue to provide outreach in that community and in the southern and northern cities within our service area.

I'd like to say thank you for your generosity and continued support for all of our programs. It was great to spend time with new and seasoned volunteers at our last gathering on Aug. 23! I enjoy these gathers as they allow us to get to know our volunteers on a deeper level.

Please spread the word about our upcoming Road to Success six-week program starting in October and thanks for volunteering and/or shopping our Overstock Sale which was a huge success because of you!

Always remember, we're stronger together as a team!

Sincerely,

*Lana Blackman*

# CLIENT SPOTLIGHTS





**DRESS FOR SUCCESS®**  
PALM BEACHES

*Going Places. Going Strong.*

**CONGRATULATIONS**



**Tammera Atkins**

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

**AUGUST 2023**

What an example of commitment! Tammera began volunteering on our Inventory Team, helping each week to sort the clothing donations – preparing the boutique for our clients and organizing it for our pop-up sales. She added to her involvement by becoming a Road to Success Mentor and has been an inspiring steward for several clients over the past three terms (and is signed up for her fourth). Unstoppable in her dedication to our clients, she's joined the Education Committee and accepted to co-chair, which means she'll be helping to shape the programming that's offered and ensure it remains relevant. Tam's business savvy been instrumental on the Relocation Committee, especially helping to draft supporting materials that are critical in persuading potential funders to underwrite our needed expansion. She's on the Style for Hope Luncheon Committee. And, she generously taps into personal resources from her past business life that secure donations for many of the bubbly beverages we're fortunate to serve at events. It's no surprise that Tam has been recruited to our Board of Directors since she has the vision, passion and drive that fuel our work. Oh, and as if this weren't enough, our August Volunteer of the Month makes the frequent treks to our doors from Ft. Lauderdale! Thank you, Tammera.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

[HTTPS://WWW.DRESSFORSUCCESSPB.ORG/VOLUNTEER/](https://www.dressforsuccesspb.org/volunteer/)

### **Congratulations, Ellen!**

Congratulations to DFSPB Volunteer, Ellen Gorrige for being nominated as Junior League of Boca Raton's 2023 Woman Volunteer of the Year!

Ellen's dedication and unwavering commitment to empowering women in our community is truly exceptional. Her passion for helping others shine through their personal and professional journeys has

been an inspiration to us all.



Our Overstock Sale was a success! With more than 300 shoppers we raised over \$40,000! Thank you to all volunteers who worked the event and to those of you who purchased some of the irresistible bargains, contributing to this latest success.



Our amazing Overstock Sale Volunteers



Pop-Up Sale Co-Chairs Rhonda Russell and Marlene Feldman



3 days...300+ shoppers...\$40,000+ raised



**DRESS FOR  
SUCCESS**  
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"KNOW WHAT SPARKS  
THE LIGHT IN YOU SO  
THAT YOU, IN YOUR OWN  
WAY, CAN ILLUMINATE  
THE WORLD."

OPRAH WINFREY



**DRESS FOR SUCCESS**  
PALM BEACHES



Road to Success is a **FREE** 6-week series of career-focused sessions (valued over \$5000) for women designed to enhance your professional development.

### In these sessions you will...

- ✓ Increase your **self-esteem** and **confidence**
- ✓ Develop a strong, **professional LinkedIn** profile
- ✓ Assess and analyze your **values** and **strengths**
- ✓ Build a **focused resume** and gain interviewing and job search skills
- ✓ Receive one-on-one **career coaching and mentoring**
- ✓ Meet with a personal shopper for a **professional suiting** experience

**MAP YOUR  
ROAD TO  
SUCCESS!**

WHEN: Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
October 4, 2023 - November 15, 2023

WHERE: 2459 S. Congress Ave. St. #204 and Hybrid

Please contact Jodi Cutler at [jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org](mailto:jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org) or  
(561) 249-3898 for any further questions.

**Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/92uus7ny>**

Sponsored by:





# EMPOWERING WOMEN FROM BROWARD TO MARTIN COUNTIES



2459 S. Congress Ave., Suite #204  
Palm Springs, FL 33406

1089 S. Main Street  
Belle Glade, FL 33430

561-249-3898



## CHANGE A WOMAN'S LIFE AND THAT OF HER FAMILY

Our mission is to empower women to achieve **economic independence** by providing a network of support, professional attire, and development tools to help women thrive at work and in life.

### Circle of Impact Memberships

#### COI Diamond - \$5,000 and Above

- Recognition on DFSPB office reception wall
- Two VIP tickets to Style for Hope luncheon
- VIP tickets to all Shop for Success events
- Invitation to 4 special events during the year
- Acknowledgment in the DFSPB newsletter
- Lunch with COI Diamond members, co-chairs, Executive Director, and Board Chair

#### COI Pearl - \$2,500 to \$4,999

- Recognition on DFSPB office reception wall
- VIP tickets to all Shop for Success events
- Invitation to 2 special events during the year
- Lunch with COI co-chairs and Executive Director

#### COI Angel - \$1,000 to \$2,499

- Recognition on DFSPB office reception wall
- VIP tickets to all Shop for Success events
- Invitation to one special event during the year

### The Impact of Your Charitable Giving

Dress for Success is part  
of a global organization.

- Since February 2020, 50 million women around the world have lost their jobs due to the pandemic.
- Globally, women's employment dropped by 4.2% between 2019 and 2020, compared with 3% for men.
- When women have access to resources, education, and economic opportunities, they are better equipped to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.
- Investing in women's economic empowerment has a positive ripple effect on communities and societies.

Learn more at  
[dressforsuccesspb.org](https://dressforsuccesspb.org)

In 2022:

- 679 women served,
- 627 suitings,
- 322 women employed,
- 305 professional attire fittings, and
- 102 virtual coaching sessions conducted.



Get involved with DFSPB and make a lasting difference in the lives of women and in your community. Join us to empower and encourage women who are developing their careers and striving for economic independence. Help ensure that every woman who walks through our doors thrives both at work and in life.

To impact a woman's future today, contact Executive Director  
Joe Ann Fletcher for details: (561) 249-3898  
[jfletcher@dressforsuccesspb.org](mailto:jfletcher@dressforsuccesspb.org)

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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