

## 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



**January 2024**

**Executive Director's Message**

**Board President Message**

**Road to Success Program Updates**

**Professional Women's Group Sessions**

**Style for Hope Luncheon - Tickets On Sale**

**Y.E.S.! Galentine's Event**

**Scholarship Opportunities**

**Thanks to Office Depot - Purse Donation**

**Volunteer Happenings**



## Executive Director's Corner

Hello Supporters & Friends:

2024 is off to a busy start at DFSPB. The six-week winter term of Road to Success began January 24 on the heels of a year that saw a total of 50 program graduates. And, I'm proud to report we set an historic record in 2023, providing services to 815 clients – a year-end total that surpasses pre-pandemic numbers and underscores the increasing need to prepare women for their roles in the workforce. That number includes an explosive growth in our Belle Glade location where we served 166 clients, bringing the total since we opened there in mid-2021 to 328! We're continually exploring ways to extend our outreach, and by way of a partnership with Women in Distress of Broward County, we're now providing their clients with coaching on resume writing and interviewing skills.

On the fundraising front, we're actively focused on the upcoming Friday, March 15th "Style for Hope" luncheon and urge you to purchase your tickets ASAP because it's looking to be a sellout. The VIP Reception, which includes a photo op with our Style Icon honorees Tommy & Dee Hilfiger and a special gift from them, already is nearing the 75-guest capacity. The Silent Auction that precedes the luncheon also is shaping up to be loaded with some tempting and highly valuable prizes. WPTV-News 5 Anchor Shannon Cake returns as our emcee, and we'll be toasting the 10th year of "Style for Hope." It's thanks to an impressive lineup of generous Sponsors that we're able to reach this

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milestone and that we're able to present an event that's become a high point of the social season.

Go to [www.dressforsuccesspb.org](http://www.dressforsuccesspb.org) to register.

We're saying yes and YAY to the return of Y.E.S.! – our Young Executives for Success program which aims to engage with the next generation of volunteers who will be the future of Dress for Success. The initiative is being resurrected thanks to the drive and commitment of our staff young 'uns Victoria Velez and Alex Shatara. The first event they've planned is a "Galentine's" gathering, Tuesday, February 13th, at the Isles of Wellington Club House. There's no age limit on attending...no limit on the networking opportunity...no limit to the fun these two are cooking up. So, plan to attend. Information is below.

Also being added in 2024 is a "Speaker's Bureau" featuring volunteers whose passion for DFSPB will be channeled into presentations and speaking engagements on behalf of the organization when we're invited to appear at various meetings and programs. These true brand ambassadors will share their firsthand experiences of client interactions and provide personal testimony to how our programs impact the lives of the women we serve. They'll fill in for me and other staff members if our schedules are already booked, allowing the organization to further grow its outreach in the community.

One final thought: While there'd be no Dress for Success without clothing donations, monetary donations go a long way as well, like the recent check we received from Office Depot that enabled us to reverse a shortage of purses for our clients. As needed, we allocate money for such inventory purchases, and we also maintain a modest discretionary fund that's intended as one-time help for clients in dire straits with rent, utilities, transportation, or other basic needs.

Forever grateful,

*Joe Ann Fletcher*

**Joe Ann Fletcher**  
Executive Director  
Dress for Success Palm Beaches

**A Message from  
our Board President**

*Lana Blackman*



Happy New Year DFSPB Family!

We made it! A momentous year is behind us and even more spectacular years are ahead of us. I'm truly excited to embark on 2024. We ended 2023 strong and we're ready to keep moving forward as we keep our mission at the forefront of our minds: 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.

In 2024, we plan accomplish some key factors:

- Continue plans to secure a new location
- Celebrate another successful year at our Belle Glade location
- Host a record-breaking tenth anniversary Style for Hope Luncheon
- Enhance our website and marketing efforts
- Continue our extraordinary educational efforts to reach and teach the women in our service area
- Continue to build community relations with the women we serve, our volunteers and community leaders ... and so much more!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Dress for Success Palm Beaches. It's because of you that we exist. I look forward to seeing you at our next event and making a connection.

Always remember to thrive!

*Lana Blackman*

### Road to Success Program Updates



**Winter Program Kicks Off!**



We are thrilled to be kicking off our Winter Road to Success Program from January 24th – February 28th every Wednesday from 9:30 am – 1 pm.

We have 20 Participants and Mentors ready to experience the ultimate empowering job readiness program with incredible speakers like Kelly Merbler, Pamela Touissant, Andrene Williams, Lucy Carr, Paula Howard, Leslie Gray, Erica Marino, Dina Igoe, Amy Baj, Madeline Aviles, and Kara dePool.

Special thanks to Stephenson Dor for his immense talent and generosity in taking our clients' headshots! We would also like to thank Vivian Cruz of Ulta for our continuing collaboration and their generosity in providing makeup artists for our Image Day of the program.

If you would like information about the course, please contact Jodi Cutler:  
[jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org](mailto:jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org).

### **Professional Women's Group (PWG) - Motivational Sessions with Dr. Nethel Stephens**



In collaboration with the North Broward County (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, Dr. Nethel Stephens, an Independent Certified Coach, Teacher, and Speaker with The John Maxwell

Team, led our Professional Women's Group in an inspirational first session of "More-Nopoly," and a Financial Fast workshop to combat overspending during the Holiday Season.

She brought a team of five incredible women who discussed the mindset of money and how money represents the ability to have choices. They led our clients to focus on a mindset of abundance rather than lack. After her presentation, we celebrated with a Holiday Party and gave each of client the opportunity to be suited: New Year, New You style!

Dr. Stephens and her team will return on Saturday, February 10th for part II of her motivational workshop!

Click the button below to register:



[Register Now](#)



## STYLE FOR HOPE FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

Mark Badgley & James Mischka, Honorary Chairmen

FEATURING PRESENTATION OF THE 2024  
STYLE ICON AWARD & ONSTAGE CONVERSATION

## TOMMY HILFIGER & DEE OCLEPPO HILFIGER

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024**

11:00 a.m. Reception & Silent Auction

12:30 p.m. Lunch & Program

KRAVIS CENTER

701 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach

Tickets available at [bit.ly/StyleforHope2024](https://bit.ly/StyleforHope2024)



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W BRADFORD INGALLS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



JOIN US FOR A

*galentine's*  
EVENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

REGISTER AT [BIT.LY/YESGALENTINES](https://bit.ly/yesgalentines)

 YES! Palm Beaches



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

 **DRESS FOR  
SUCCESS**  
PALM BEACHES

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Dress for Success Palm Beaches is proud to announce that our scholarship program led by Ellen

Gorringer is accepting applications!

Here is what some of our clients say about their experience as recipients:

*“The Davis Concepts for Life program has been truly an amazing journey. My Davis facilitator was truly superb! She has gone above and beyond to help guide me through my own program which really opened a whole new pathway for my own personal journey with myself and others. It is a very comprehensive program with a lot of concepts to process, but it is well worth it when you are done. It gives you a great feeling of self-accomplishment to be able to finish the entire program. My facilitator made it so enjoyable to not only master all these concepts, but to also engage in all the various explorations. I am truly thankful to Dress for Success for giving me this wonderful opportunity and helping me to obtain this incredible experience!” – Daphne (2022)*

*“Receiving the Donna Broder Memorial Scholarship was instrumental in my decision to continue my education by entering the Environmental Science program at the FAU Wilkes Honors College. As a mother of three going back to school, I have faced many obstacles, including financial constraints. I am proud to say that through scholarship support and dedication, I will earn a B.S. this year and for the first time in my life, instead of applying for the next job to pay the bills, I am looking forward to beginning a career. The education I am receiving is equipping me with the tools and confidence to follow a passion for environmental awareness and sustainability as well as generate a sense of security for my family.” - Erin (2022)*

*“The Donna Broder Scholarship has been a transformative force in my educational journey, propelling me toward my goal to obtain a bachelor’s degree in human services. This invaluable financial support has not only eased the burden of tuition but has also allowed me to focus wholeheartedly on my studies and extracurricular activities. The impact of the Donna Broder Scholarship extends beyond financial assistance; it has empowered me to pursue my educational aspirations with greater passion and commitment, shaping me into a dedicated advocate for positive change within the area of human services.” - Morgan (2023)*

To apply for a DFSPB scholarship, please click [here](#).

### **Thank You, Office Depot!**

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Corporate Partner, Office Depot, for their generous donation of much-needed purses.



### **Volunteers Happenings**



A wonderful Taco Tuesday volunteer appreciation event was held at the boutique!



Our volunteers enjoying a Circle of Impact event.

# 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](http://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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