

The latest news from Dress for Success Palm Beaches

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

Fri 5/19/2023 8:40 PM

To: Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>



Monthly News



May 2023

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Executive Director's Corner

Hello Supporters & Friends:

A year ago, on May 9th I began my term as Executive Director here at Dress for Success Palm Beaches. The time has sped by, packed with many proud achievements. I feel deeply privileged to be in this position, working with an amazing staff and exceptional crew of dedicated volunteers, including a uniquely hands-on and in-the-trenches Board of Directors.

I've also had the opportunity to directly interact with many of our clients, learn about the challenging circumstances in their lives that brought them to our doorstep, and then witness the uplifting transformation they experience with our help. These women are my incentive for unearthing additional funding sources, building new donor relations, and further cementing the existing ones. To date, we've served 214 clients compared to 157 last year at this time, and it's likely we'll surpass the 600 we helped in 2022!

The April 13-15th Shop for Success Pop-Up Sale that was hosted in our Palm Springs boutique netted over \$36,000 – a record-breaking amount for what's become an added spring edition of our regularly scheduled fall version. It bears mentioning that a generous community plus the overwhelming volume of clothing donations have led to adding this second sale.

Speaking of sales...we are enormously grateful for a trio of third-party selling events held over the past month where a percentage of sales were contributed to DFSPB. These

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added up collectively to \$20,000. Our thanks for hosting these “shop and-share” events to longtime partner Lilly Pulitzer, Worth Avenue retailer J. McLaughlin, and entrepreneur Jennifer Parker who produced a first-time event, Palm Beach Style 4 a Cause.

Our Circle of Impact membership – \$1,000+ annual donors –swelled to 75 thanks to pledges made at the March “Style for Hope” luncheon. COI committee co-chairs Joannie Danielides and Nancy Rizzuto convened an April roundtable meeting with top supporters and guest speaker Lisa Guillot, a renowned mindset coach and author. Together, they’ve begun formulating a strategy for building COI into an even more valuable and sustainable asset for DFSPB’s future.

We celebrated the 2nd anniversary of our Belle Glade location, with Belle Glade Mayor Steve Wilson and South Bay Mayor Joe Kyles personally on hand to offer their greetings. Other civic and industry leaders attended, along with partner agency representatives, and a contingent of volunteers who were shuttled by bus from our Palm Springs location. It was an occasion that acknowledged the increasing impact DFSPB is having on the community – we’re on track this year to doubling the number of women served by this location – and applauded the untiring outreach and help provided by our onsite manager Alex Ramos plus Board of Directors member Tammy Jackson Moore, a respected Glades activist.

As I enter my 2nd year, it’s with our new Board president Bridgette Shelfo at the helm, plus our newly elected Vice President Lana Blackman. And no stranger to DFSPB, longtime volunteer Nancy Rizzuto was voted to join the Board. What a team!

Thank you, everyone, for being such valued DFSPB supporters.

Joe Ann Fletcher

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

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A Message from our Board Chair

Bridgette Shelfo



Greetings to all.

First of all, thank you for the support and warm welcome to the Chair! I am humbled and grateful to be named your new Board President and I am committed to empowering as many women and families as possible in the Palm Beaches. After serving as the Vice Chair under Pam Rada and serving as the Chair of the Education Committee, and on the Hiring Committee responsible for bringing in Joe Ann last year, I am up for the task of building on everything we have accomplished so far, and making tangible progress, specifically in the following areas:

1. **Client growth**- We are helping record numbers of women in Belle Glade and just celebrated our two year anniversary of our boutique being open there. Big shout out to Alexandra Ramos, our “Jill of all Trades” who is the wonder woman behind the scenes there making it all happen. We love your passion, your patience, and your can do attitude. I’d also like to thank Tammy Jackson-Moore, our board member who did a fantastic job organizing, emceeding and *bringing the passion* to the event.

2. **Educational programs**- Our Road to Success program is kicking off again starting June 7th, and I would like to thank anyone who has ever mentored. It’s a real game changer when you do commit to helping one woman succeed, and as somebody who has mentored three women, I can tell you, it’s just as rewarding to help them as it is to be helped! We still need mentors for the June six week program. Please reach out to Jodi Cutler if interested: jcutler@dressforsuccesspb.org.

I would ask when you speak about our organization to always include the job readiness training we provide, along with the confidence, resume and career building skills, all for free. Many people don’t realize we have “Career Corner” available for one on one coaching at the boutique.

3. **Fundraising**- As we know, money is power, and our organization needs donations of clothing and money to continue to thrive. We are doing a great job in this area, and it’s important we keep asking for involvement.... Your business, your gym, your clubs because once people learn about our organization through the passion of our board, staff, volunteers and funders, it’s like tree branches growing and that’s what we need more of, spreading the word. Let’s make 2023 the best year yet when it comes to financial growth, which helps us provide even more support to #1 and #2 above!

4. **Finally, feedback**. I ask you to keep the board, our small but mighty staff, JoeAnn and me specifically informed of ideas you have for improvement. I am committed to making sure everything we put out, whether it’s social media, on our website, during our events is the best representation of our mission and organization, and I’d like to hear anything you think we are doing well and also things we could do better.

I would also like to congratulate JoeAnn on her one year anniversary of being our Executive Director, cheers!

Thank you for your support and dedication to Dress for Success Palm Beaches, it is greatly appreciated!

Bridgette Shelfo

CLIENT SPOTLIGHTS



**Thank You to Everyone Who Joined Us at
Our Shop for Success Boutique Sale!**



Thank you so much to all of the incredible women who shopped our Pop Up Sale in support of our suiting and job readiness programs! Seeing the mothers, daughters, girlfriends and families shopping for success was a beautiful experience!

We raised over \$36,000 for our programs!

Special thanks to our volunteers, "the inventory team," and our Board Members for their enormous help!





**DRESS FOR
SUCCESS**
PALM BEACHES

**Congratulations to Our
Belle Glade Boutique for**

Celebrating 2 Years!

Our Belle Glade Boutique Celebrates its Second Anniversary!

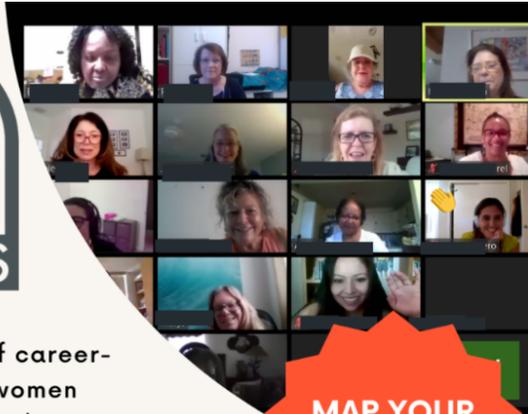
Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our second anniversary at the Belle Glade boutique!





DRESS FOR
SUCCESS
PALM BEACHES

PRESENTS



Road to Success is a **FREE** 6-week series of career-focused sessions (valued over \$5000) for women designed to enhance your professional development. Whether you are underemployed or seeking employment, this program is designed to help you create and implement a vision of **YOUR** ideal future.

MAP YOUR
ROAD TO
SUCCESS!

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

WHEN: Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
June 7, 2023 - July 19th, 2023

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

Register at

<https://tinyurl.com/mwbe33sn>

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

Sponsored by: **THE JIM MORAN FOUNDATION**
"THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT."

Anchors for Success

WPEC News Channel 12, WPTV, and WPBF 25 News participated in our "Anchors for Success" clothing drive.

Thank you to the on-air talent, reporters, weather team, and staff who contributed to the drive. The initiative was originally launched by DFSPB in 2021.



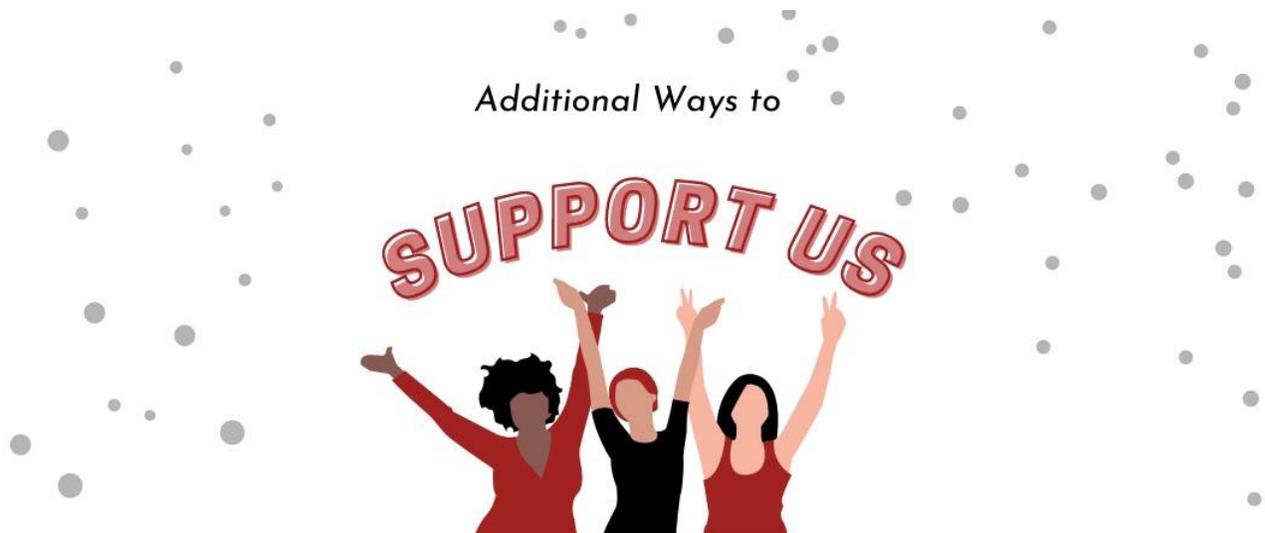
WPEC-TV News anchor Liz Quirantes handed off the donation of clothing that she and her co-workers collected to DFSPB volunteer, Denise O'Sullivan.



Congratulations to Victoria and Maria!

Congratulations to Victoria Cruz and Maria Bacas-Cook who graduated from Palm Beach State College with their Bachelor's Degree in Human Services on May 9, 2023.

They both were dedicated interns for Dress for Success PB, and now they are both employees. Maria graduated as Summa Cum Laude and Victoria as Cum Laude; we are so proud of them.



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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