



DRESS FOR SUCCESS



Express

OUR LATEST NEWS

MARCH/APRIL 2026

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Dear Supporters & Friends:

Sustainability. It's a word with so many applications and meanings in our work at Dress for Success Palm Beaches.

My personal challenge: Sustaining the funding and financial support that allow us to stay vital and continue all our services and programs – growing them to keep pace with client needs. I'm proud to say that having completed the first quarter of 2026, our fiscal well-being is sound and does appear to be very sustainable as we move ahead. And that's largely due to an infusion from several of our stalwart funders PLUS the remarkable results of our March 13th Style for Hope Luncheon. Read more about these respectively in "\$incere Thank\$" and "Rave Reviews" below.

I continually wrestle with how to sustain the commitment of our volunteers. The pool of human resources available here in Florida does skew toward 60-year+ retirees. But, how do we attract younger women? How do we cultivate that next generation of role models and philanthropic-minded supporters? We do have a wonderful corps of volunteers – many who we see week-after-week. And, we have many others dependably responsive to help staff special events, like the recent Style for Hope Fundraising Luncheon and our upcoming Pop-Up Sale. But we need to build upon this base of people power, developing ways to attract newbies...keep them engaged...sustain their interest.

Of course, sustainability is an underpinning of DFSPB's operations and the process of accepting clothing donations, recycling them to the women who we serve. When Nancy Lublin founded Dress for Success 30 years ago sustainability was barely a buzzword and had yet to become a global movement aimed at saving our planet. Nonetheless, what she created is an authentic sustainable practice that happens to be an unheralded benefit of our helping women appropriately dress for a job interview.

Speaking of clothing donations...DFSPB blessedly is in a "generosity zone" with an abundance (really, an overload) of merchandise arriving each Thursday – Clothing Donation Day. An appointment is required to help us control the inventory volume. We have a team of 6 volunteers who sort through and scrutinize the items to make sure they are in acceptable condition – not too old or out-of-date, working zippers and buttons, no stains or tears, hems and seams intact, free of animal hair or odors. After all, we want the women we serve to feel good about what they put on and trust that we're providing near-as-new if not actually new, unworn attire. That said, if you are on the donation schedule or getting ready to clean your closet and want to make an appointment, please be considerate and carefully review the criteria we provide for what clothing and accessories we will accept.

<https://www.dressforsuccesspb.org/donate/clothing-donations/> The downside of the donations we receive each week is that invariably there are piles of clothing, shoes and accessories that do not meet the standards we've set. But, in the most sustainable fashion, we pay it forward, donating our castoffs to other organizations that request clothing. The upside is that much of the surplus we receive that's not quite right for a job interview or employment does go into our Pop-Up Sale. And, yes, the next one is nearing: Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2. See the official notice below.

For DFSPB, sustainability is defining. It's in practice. It's integral to who we are.

Forever grateful,

Joe Ann Fletcher



Spring is here and with it comes the promise of longer days, temperate weather, and time to do a little spring cleaning and organizing. The hectic rush of the season and holidays is starting to fall away and there seems to be more time to appreciate the simple stuff.

I find myself appreciating the accomplishments happening all around us. Our staff, our board, and our volunteers have been going non-stop since we moved into our new location and it culminated last month in a very successful Style for Hope Luncheon. I hope many of you had a chance to attend, because it was wonderful, and folks are still talking about it!

And I appreciate our clients who attend our employment preparedness programs and who push themselves to better opportunities and accomplish more for themselves and their families. The services we offer continue to help these women attain their employment goals. We see the hope and possibilities in their eyes, and we work to help them unlock their true potential.

Every year the Earth finds a way to renew the natural beauty around us, and at Dress for Success Palm Beaches we see that beauty every day when another lovely woman walks through our doors. It's thanks to donors and supporters like you who make it possible for these women to experience a personal renewal of their own.

Happy Spring everyone!

Warm regards,



By now you may have heard. The 2026 Style for Hope Fund Raising Luncheon was a resounding blockbuster netting us close to \$350,000. TV's "What Not to Wear" star, **Stacy London**, was our Style Icon honoree, and she regaled the audience with her fashion wisdom and advice in an onstage interview with **Hollani Davis**, who anchors WPTV's "Today on 5." Stacy autographed copies of her book, Truth About Style, for VIP ticket holders, took time to chat with each of them, and posed for a photo memento, as well. No sooner had she arrived in West Palm Beach from her home base in NYC the day before our March 13th event then she made a beeline for our Greenacres location to meet **Pastel Scales**, one of 10 clients invited to attend the luncheon, thanks to the generosity of a sponsor. Stacy spent time helping Pastel select an outfit to wear to the event and immersing her in a completely uplifting experience. Stacy knocked it out of the park in guiding Pastel who was glowing in her new garb.

A special appearance from **Florida State Representative Debra Tendrich** via Zoom from Tallahassee brought the SFH audience to tears as she described how the emotional support as well as the suit she received 14 years ago from DFSPB helped her overcome the trauma of domestic abuse. She credits her experience with us as a catalyst for drafting a bill advocating for other victims – legislation that days before was approved by both the House and Senate. Another past client heard from and underscoring the lasting impact of DFSPB was **Courtney Banks**, who three years ago had enrolled in Road to Success and who has enjoyed the ongoing support of her DFSPB mentors. She delivered a video selfie message of thanks from Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska. It's where she's stationed as a U.S. Army Private and fulfilling her ambitions for stability and career.



Stacy London fine-tuned the luncheon attire choices for Pastel Scales



Pastel in her "ta-da" Style for Hope outfit



Joe Ann Fletcher, Hollani Davis, Stacy London, Bobbi Brown



Stacy autographed her book for VIP guests



Hollani Davis interviewed Stacy London

DRESS FOR SUCCESS Palm Beaches

FRESH FINDS FOR A NEW SEASON

Pop-Up Sale

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 | 10AM-7PM
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 | 10AM-5PM

6836 FOREST HILL BLVD
GREENACRES, FL. 33413

Anchors for Success

Since 2021, we've partnered with the local TV news stations – WPBF, WPEC, and WPTV/WFLX – to host a clothing collection among their female crew members, including the on-air anchors, weather and news reporters, and production and management teams. Scheduled each spring to coincide with traditional closet-cleaning season, they've shown their extreme generosity. What's more, we've even benefitted with several women stepping up to volunteer for us! Shout-outs of thanks to **Angela Rozier, Jade Jarvis, Rachel Williams** and **Sam Silver** from WPBF, **Liz Quirantes** from WPEC, and our own Board Chair **Bernadette O'Grady** at WPTV/WFLX.



Sam Silver and Angela Rozier at WPBF



Liz Quirantes with the WPEC donation

Circle of Impact

It was an occasion to thank Circle of Impact members and acknowledge their generosity in committing \$1000 or more annually. It also turned out to be a fun and yum learning experience as Black River Caviar's expert presenter **Linda Garnett** led a Master Class on caviar – its history, how to shop for it, serve it, and enjoy it. Hosted at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, the private event included lots of palate-cleansing Champagne accompanied by some delectable caviar. COI Co Chairs **Joannie Danielides** and **Rosemary Sirico** announced that the group's ranks have swelled from 93 members to 123 thanks to the Style for Hope Luncheon, where \$99,500 was pledged to COI on the spot! It was a triumph worth toasting.



A tasting of 3 types of Black River Caviar



Andrea Northrop, Nancy Rizzuto, Andrea Greenspan, Kara dePool



Linda Garnett, Vanessa Vinci, Rosemary Sirico



Ray & Karen Masciarella

Pam Buchmeyer, Lisa Gulley

*Michelle "Buttercup" Davis,
Tamra Brandt*



*Anthea Walker, Rosemary Sirico, Linda Garnett,
Joannie Danielides, Joe Ann Fletcher*



*Wendy Tannenbaum, Pam Buchmeyer,
JoAnne Greiser, Steve Tannenbaum*



MENTORS VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

There's no greater reward in volunteering than being part of the transformation of a woman who's struggling to find stability in her life and helping to empower her with awareness of her self-worth while guiding her toward job readiness and employment.

Mentors are needed for the next term of Road to Success beginning Wednesday, April 29th and concluding Wednesday, June 3rd.

Call Alexandra Shatara, Boutique Manager at 561-249-3898 to learn more about the impact you can have.



We wouldn't be where we are today – at River Bridge Centre in Greenacres – without Jennifer Putnam. The Boca Raton-based real estate advisor, who has been volunteering for DFSPB in distinct ways over the past 5 years, helped find the new space and negotiate the lease with our landlord, Publix.

Jennifer was born and raised in Fairfield County, Connecticut, graduated from International Fine Arts College in Miami with a degree in Fashion Design and Business Marketing, and has spent most of her life between the Nutmeg and Sunshine States.

She lived in Delray Beach when she was first married, but moved back to Connecticut to raise her family – Sydney, now 33, Savannah, 27, and Joseph, 23 – and ultimately settled in Boca Raton in 2013 following a divorce. She credits her current career in real estate to her mom, who was a realtor, plus the influence of other family members also involved in the industry.

She became acquainted with Dress for Success back in Connecticut, attending and hosting some of the organization's fundraising events there and in New York. It was upon her move to Florida and the impact of her divorce – personally experiencing the challenges and struggles of being a single working mother – that stirred her empathy with the DFS mission to empower women. So, in 2021 she was driven to create a fundraiser of her own benefitting DFSPB: "Do Good Feel Good" Women Empowering Women Networking and Luncheon. She engaged luxury home furnishings retailer Clive Daniels as a partner in this initiative, along with Macy's as a co-sponsor, offering them a platform to showcase some of their leading fashion brands. The event attracted real estate colleagues along with civic leaders who got to hear from various guest speakers sharing their stories of empowerment. Though the program is currently on pause as Jennifer works to attract new partnerships, over the 4 years since it's been staged close to \$10,000 has been raised. Moreover, her concept and efforts have helped to build awareness about DFSPB's services in the community. Her commitment to DFSPB is genuinely selfless. She's a volunteer beyond measure.

What's your favorite vacation destination?

St. Barts. Love the beautiful rolling hills, crystal blue beaches, nature, French sophistication, music, relaxed lifestyle and dining. Plus there's the adrenaline rush in the tiny plane landing on the tiny landing strip over the beach.

If you could invite four famous guests – living or dead – to a dinner party who would you ask?

Jesus, Winston Churchill, Mother Teresa, and Tony Bennett

What's your all-time favorite movie?

The Devil Wears Prada

Ice cream or cake?

Carvel Ice Cream Cake!! Love the chocolate crunch in the middle.

What's a good spy code name for you?

Merrymaker - I enjoy bringing light and joy to others.

Who or what inspires you?

Cancer patients and survivors inspire me. I spent a year volunteering in the infusion room at Lynn Cancer Institute and saw firsthand how very sick these patients were. Their courage, strength and will to live have left a lasting impression on me.



We mentioned it in our last Express issue. But we now have the green light to fully brag about the significant grant received from **The DeLuca Foundation**. Over the next 3 years we'll be funded a total of \$480,000 -- \$160,000 annually earmarked for 2 new staff positions including one to help with fundraising, grant writing and volunteer engagement, and the other to assist at our Belle Glade location. This latest act of largesse follows their essential help in creating our new Greenacres location, with the Training Room named in their honor.

It was our first time applying to **The Palm Beach Country Club Foundation**, and they graciously awarded us \$15,000! We are especially grateful to several Club members from **Temple Israel** who encouraged us to submit for funding, along with sidelines coaching from **Steven Rappaport** and **Judith Garson**, the couple who've been instrumental in nurturing our relationship with the **Neil S. Hirsch Foundation**.

And, of course, we must thank everyone who supported Style for Hope which added \$350,000 to our bank account. Nearly 1/3 of that was generated by Circle of Impact, which raised \$99,500 at the event.



The basic lifesaving techniques of CPR were imparted to participants at the December Keys to Success program. And the class, featuring practical hands-on training, was so popular we scheduled a repeat session in March to accommodate the waiting list. Our heartfelt thanks to lieutenant firefighter **Jason Valentine**, a certified instructor, who led the filled-to-capacity classes.



Lt. Valentine brought plenty of practice dummies



Participants with Lt. Valentine



It was a full house for the April Keys to Success program



Become a Circle of Impact Member

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](#).

Does Your Company Offer 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.

Leave a 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.

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS



[DONATE](#)

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