



Monthly News



DRESS FOR SUCCESS®

PALM BEACHES

October/November 2025

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CEO's Corner



Dear Supporters & Friends:

"More Than the Dress" helps explain our Dress for Success name. Now it's our Dress for Success *Palm Beaches* name that needs explanation: We're More Than Palm Beach(es).

Our affiliate also has been serving women in Broward County and earlier this year we registered d/b/a Dress for Success Broward County with the Florida Department of State's Sunbiz. Yay! What this means is that we've extended our fundraising scope so that foundations and other philanthropic resources based in Broward can be confidently assured that their allocation is helping to benefit those in their local community.

For the past three years we've been steadily focusing on developing partnerships with several well-respected Broward-based organizations. **Women in Distress** is one that we visit monthly, each time bringing a Road to Success-type session, such as financial literacy, self-image, interviewing skills, etc., to their participants. This relationship has further evolved as we've joined with another Broward agency – **H.O.M.E.S** (Housing Opportunities Mortgage Assistance & Effective Neighborhood Solutions). H.O.M.E.S. arranges for a van to shuttle some of their own participants to our Road to Success series, and Women in Distress clients are invited to ride with them and enroll in a full 6-week RTS term. Another wonderful outcome of these relationships is that several of the WID and H.O.M.E.S. staff have volunteered as RTS mentors – answering a recurring need we have for the one-on-one coaches.

Another of our BC partners: **Center for Healthy Marriages & Families, Inc.** In addition to referring clients to us and assisting them with their transportation, this group introduced us to the Miramar Job Fair. It is considered one of the top 50 such expos in the country because of the caliber of exhibitors it attracts from business and industry. Displaying at Miramar has enabled us to cast our net much further among the women in BC and offer them a valuable resource in preparing for the workforce.

Our RTS facilitator, Dr. Nethel Stephens, is Fort Lauderdale-based. She's been a true catalyst in growing our presence in Broward, involving, as well, **Redeeming Word Ministries**, where she is part of the leadership. Several of her congregants have participated in RTS and attend our PWG programs. And, the church was a '25 Style for Hope sponsor. So, it's been our great fortune to have benefitted in so many ways since our association with Nethel.

If you're wondering, "What about Martin County?" We are fulfilling our affiliate's mandate there via several "Palm Beaches" agency partnerships that are inclusive of our northern neighbor (i.e., Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Mary's Home of the Treasure Coast). And, let's not forget: All the while that we've been purposefully expanding in Broward, we've been progressively building up our position in "The Glades," serving Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay.

It's non-stop expansion met by non-stop responsiveness and commitment – all achieved thanks to your ongoing support.

Forever grateful,

Joe Ann Fletcher



A Message from Our Board Chair

Bernadette O'Grady

I have a recent quote from Martha Stewart on the wall in my office. A couple of years ago, when she was a tender 82 years old, an interviewer asked her what her secret was to stay so vital and energized in business and in life, and she said simply: "I tell myself, when you're through changing, you're through." If there is one thing that life offers all of us, it is change. So many of the clients that we see at our boutique have faced very challenging changes in their lives, but our goal is always to offer them our help and services to make positive changes and empower them to keep going through whatever changes life has for them.

Fall is a very physical reminder of change. Temperatures lower, leaves change color and fall, daylight savings time happens, and family routines change around school and the holidays. It can be invigorating. And that's something our clients turn to us for – a way to invigorate their career, their potential, their future.

This year so far, Dress for Success Palm Beaches has helped more than 805 clients find their path and direction forward. That's almost 100 more women than last year at this time. And with our new facility and amazing job readiness programs we hope to reach even more women.

The planning is underway for our Style for Hope Luncheon in March of 2026 where we highlight some of the women whose lives we've helped change. But know that every day, everyone at DFSPB – the staff, the volunteers, program facilitators and mentors – is working diligently to help every woman who walks through our door face all the changes in her life and help her through them.

Warm regards,

Bernadette O'Grady

Grand Opening is a Grand Celebration

While our new River Bridge Centre headquarters and boutique has been up and running the past two months, on October 22nd the location was officially inaugurated and joyously welcomed by the City of Greenacres with a ribbon cutting ceremony. On hand for the celebration were city VIPs, several of our major funders, volunteers, and other supporters. Special Guest of

Honor, Dress for Success Worldwide CEO Joanie Bily, told the crowd of about 75 that our Palm Beaches chapter is considered premier among the network of 130 affiliates – the ultimate compliment!



DFSPB Board Chair Bernadette O'Grady, Joe Ann Fletcher, Joanie Bily



Cutting the Greenacres "Green" Ribbon: Palm Beach County Commissioner Joel Flores, Greenacres Deputy Mayor Susy Diaz, Joe Ann Fletcher, Joanie Bily, Bernadette O'Grady



DFSPB Volunteer Personal Stylist Annette Sohn and Greenacres Councilwoman Judy Dugo



Karen Masciarella, one of our most generous donors with her husband Ray, is acknowledged for contributing to the creation of our Breakroom/Respite Area



Joe Ann Fletcher with volunteers Laura Mindell and Susan England – our longtime volunteer stylists who put their interior design expertise to work on the new location



COI member Jennifer Putnam, who was our broker and helped us land our new space, and Board Member Nancy Rizzuto



JoAnne Greiser and Ellen Goringe – generous DFSPB funders



Joe Ann Fletcher and Mary Hart



COI members Henny & Berge Santo



*The O'Sullivans:
Sean, Denise and Bob*



*Joanie Bily, Florida State Representative Debra
Tendrich, Joe Ann Fletcher and Sheri Brown
Grosvenor*

*Volunteer Career Coach Shirelle Francis gets
ready to walk the red carpet*



*DFSPB Treasurer Steve Tannenbaum and
Palm Beach County Commissioner Joel Flores*

Volunteer Stylists Joanne Sommers and Nilda Morales



Adanis & Victoria Velez and Elaine Parnes

Tirzah Gabourel, Rosemary Sirico

Speaking Of...

There's been a lot of talking going on about Dress for Success Palm Beaches thanks to recent Speakers Bureau bookings. Helping to get the word out have been Speakers Bureau Co-Chairs Nancy Rizzuto and Debbie Freire plus our illustrious CEO Joe Ann Fletcher.

Nancy and Debbie have been engaging with Rotary Clubs around the community – and, if you can believe it, there are about a dozen on the Speakers Bureau's hit list. So far, they've presented to memberships in West Palm Beach, Wellington and Town of Palm Beach, acquainting them with our services and programs and enlisting their support via contributions and hosting clothing drives – especially "Power of the Purse."

[FYI, "Power of the Purse" is what we often suggest for organizations and companies that want to show their support via a clothing drive. Since we're generally well-stocked with clothing but frequently have a shortage of handbags for our clients – especially basic black – we offer this concept. "Power of the Purse" brings in gently worn or new ones; and, we encourage donors to add a \$25 gift card or new mascara or lipstick inside the purse. It's proven to be a popular program that's easier for the organizations to manage and beautifully solves our needs, as well.]

Meanwhile, Joe Ann's dance – er, speakers – card most recently was filled at Temple Israel in West Palm Beach. She was invited to help its congregants get through their Yom Kippur fasting period by leading an afternoon conversation about philanthropy and sharing what Dress for Success is all about. She was warmly welcomed by Rabbi Ryan Daniels who led the discussion.

Next up for Joe Ann: She was asked to headline one of the workshops at the Dress for Success Worldwide Conference in Toronto at the end of October. It's the second-time-around for her to have been selected as a speaker (she was on the agenda soon after she joined DFSPB in 2022), and it's considered an honor. Operations Director Victoria Velez also will be attending the global gathering, hopefully returning with inspiration, ideas and valuable information benefitting our chapter.



Joe Ann with Rabbi Ryan Daniels

Donor Spotlight

We would like to extend a special thanks to Judge Mary Rudd-Robinson, a member of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter, The Links, Incorporated for her wonderful clothing donations!





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Young Executives for Success

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purse drive

*In the spirit of giving,
bring a new or gently used
purse to donate to a
Dress for Success client.*



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Circle of Impact (COI) is the leading initiative for individual giving, asking donors for a minimum \$1,000 pledge. It's a commitment that helps DFSPB deliver on its mission of empowering women to achieve financial independence and stability in their lives.

Formed in 2019, COI has grown from 40 charter members to more than 80, and their combined giving has significantly added to the foundation grants and funding raised by DFSPB supporting its workforce readiness programs and other services.

In a show of appreciation, COI members throughout the year are invited to exclusive experiential events, themed receptions, and networking opportunities, often at private residences or distinctive venues and occasionally featuring presentations from guest authors, experts, or talents.

Click on the link below, see the range of Membership Levels, and help change a woman's life today.

[Become a Member](#)

We are pleased to recognize the following Circle of Impact members who contributed \$2,500 or more at the following levels over the past year:

Diamond

Brittany Castillo
Chris Quinn
Debra Kelly-Ennis
Dee & Tommy Hilfiger
Donna Kress
Elissa Greenberg
Ellen Bernstein
Steve Ehrhart
Ellen Gorringer
Esther Perman
JoAnne Greiser
Karen Masciarella
Kelly Merbler
Susan Levine
Sylvia Golden

Pearl

Caren Rose Wishner
David Hochberg
Faith Meyer
Ilene Golembiovsky
Jana Hesser
Joannie Danielides
Lyn Houston
Bernadette O'Grady
Marc Schoenbach
Wendy Tannenbaum
Nancy Rizzuto
Patricia Dautch
Zelda Mason

Additional Ways to

SUPPORT US



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.**

Business Partners





[Donate](#)

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