



DRESS FOR SUCCESS



Express

OUR LATEST NEWS

MAY/JUNE 2026

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CEO'S CORNER



Dear Supporters & Friends:

How do you measure Success? I'll tell you how DFSPB measures it.

Certainly, numbers help to tell the story, so we're constantly head-counting: How many women did we suit/coach this month? How many are enrolled in Road to Success? Attending PWG? Keys to Success? The figures we collect monthly are required reporting to Dress for Success Worldwide as a determinant of our success. Similarly, potential

fundlers and sponsors want basic quantification of programs and services. And, we also must track and report Volunteer participation in terms of body count plus hours spent. There's plenty of accounting on this front, to be sure.

We also measure success in dollars raised. Guided by the wisdom and judgment of our Board of Directors we set annual budget and fundraising goals based on our fundamental needs (rent, payroll, and other finances essential for keeping us operational) plus to offset costs of providing promised programs and services. Our ever-eagle-eyed Treasurer, Steve Tannenbaum, assures we are in strong financial health and are measuring up to a successful year in fundraising. He points not only to the March "Style for Hope" event netting \$348,230, but also to the recent Spring Pop-Up Sale that added more than \$42,500 to our coffers! Also to be credited for our fiscal well-being are the numerous grants and sponsorships – many renewed as well as newly acquired.

Our success also must be measured in more qualitative terms, like the breakthroughs we have with Road to Success clients who begin the program feeling dejected and discouraged, but who emerge after the 6 weeks with a boost in their confidence and self-esteem. Some will have found employment immediately; some may be on the verge of it. But, in completing RTS, they're now well-armed to set out on the search and ready to make their mark in the workforce. That's a measure of success we champion and cheer!

Finally, if you attended our March "Style for Hope" luncheon, you were likely blown away by the Zoom appearance from Tallahassee of Florida State Representative Debra Tendrich. She shared her personal success story of having received support from DFSPB when she arrived in Florida 14 years ago as a domestic abuse escapee. As we reported in our last issue of Express, she introduced legislation to strengthen the penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders that remarkably passed the Florida Legislature unanimously. Now, the critical notch of success has been achieved: Governor Ron DeSantis signed the bill into law on Friday, May 22. Kudos to our staunch supporter and forever women's rights advocate Debra Tendrich! BTW...DFS Worldwide has named Debra a finalist to be a DFS Global Ambassador. This role would require her to represent the organization and speak at events taking place around the world. It's considered a major honor, and we are proud to have nominated her for this position. Debra is the perfect definition of success!

So, how do you measure Success?

Forever grateful,

Joe Ann Fletcher



Summer is upon us and with it comes the usual mix of emotions. Relief that the fast pace of "the season" has slowed, and restaurants and roads are a bit less crowded. Excitement that the days are longer and there's more time to get things done, or to enjoy the outdoors. The inevitable trepidation about potential hurricanes and what they could mean for our homes and property. And of course, it's a chance to get a jump on planning for end-of-the year holidays. Though November and December may seem far off, in a blink of an eye stores will be displaying Halloween merchandise and Christmas music will be playing.

Let's savor the summer – even with the oppressive heat. Use the time to take on a project or two, like clearing out a closet and turning it into an opportunity to donate to Dress for Success Palm Beaches. Maybe re-commit to doing things that fulfill us, like volunteer work or charitable giving. And it is a time to remind ourselves how grateful our clients are for the services we provide.

Have you heard? This July our country will be celebrating 250 years of independence. Of course you have. And while I'm sure it will include a plethora of hotdogs (and hotdog eating contests), ice cream, barbecuing, parades of fife and drums, and relentless fireworks, it should also remind us of how integral our services are for our clients to achieve their independence.

Independence can be a very high-minded ideal, one which is the very foundation of our country. But it can also be a very practical, daily requirement to thrive in our country. Our clients work hard to gain employment that will give them financial independence, for themselves and their families. And that independence is the first step toward grasping and living the American Dream.

This is a great summer to celebrate how far we've come as a county, and how far we've come as an organization.

I'll leave you all with one of my favorite quotes. *"There is a wonderful, mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life – happiness, freedom, and peace of mind – are always attained by giving them to someone else."* - Peyton Conway March.

Warm (summer) regards,

Bernadette O'Grady

Board of Directors Update

New Board Members



Candice Bucknor



Chelsea Eaton

In 2025, the Board of Directors voted to increase its membership from 13 to 17. And, to that end, there have been several additions. We introduced you to two newbies in our Jan/Feb Issue of this newsletter. Now, we have two more to acquaint you with: **Candice Bucknor** and **Chelsea Eaton**. Due to some departures and shifts, we currently have two more vacancies to fill. See below for the full list of Board Members but in the meantime, these are our newest electees.

Many of you may already recognize Candice because over the past year she dove into volunteering for us. She's been a Road to Success mentor, is a Personal Stylist on Thursdays, and worked the Style for Hope luncheon in March. To fully capture all of that sincere enthusiasm for DFSPB, she was voted to the Board, and she immediately accepted to co-chair the Marketing Committee. Candice, who is from Jamaica, lives in Royal Palm and has had an impressive 24-year nursing career that includes both clinical and administrative roles. She and her husband are about to become empty nesters with their two sons in college.

Chelsea is known professionally as Chelsea Taylor when she's co-hosting the morning show on New Country 101.3, at Hubbard Radio, a Style for Hope sponsor. This spark plug personality was so inspired by our recent luncheon – she's also attended others in the past – that she was compelled to volunteer. No stranger to fundraising, she's active in numerous community programs including Pinkball Organization offering free mammograms, Wounded Veterans Relief Fund, Place of Hope and Feeding South Florida, among others. As you might imagine, her gift of gab from her radio experience makes her the perfect brand ambassador for DFSPB. Chelsea lives in Boynton with her husband, two sons (one college-bound) and daughter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ginger Marchetti, Secretary
Steve Tannenbaum, Treasurer
Pamela Buchmeyer
Candice Bucknor
Haydee Carvalho
Kara dePool
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WHILE WE APPRECIATE MALE EDUCATORS,
PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY WOMEN'S
CLOTHING IS AVAILABLE.

thank you!

Scholarships

25 young women were awarded Scholarship dollars at a May 5th celebration dinner in their honor. Among those chosen for this year's grants are several with ambitions for a career in healthcare, a prospective lawyer, dentist, marine biology teacher, veterinary tech and even a missionary pastor. On hand for the presentations was longtime funder **Christine Quinn**, principal of the Quinn Family Foundation Trust. She was joined by committee members **Ellen Gorringer**, **Debbie Freire**, **Merle Davis** and **Shari Axios** who had helped to screen, interview, and

recommend this year's awardees. All told, \$30,000 was distributed along with each student receiving a new laptop computer courtesy of BestBuy. It was a joyous occasion and memorably capped the 4th year that DFSPB has offered Scholarships.



Angelina Lopez (c.) was among the Scholarship awardees honored by Christine Quinn (l.) and Joe Ann Fletcher (r.).



Enjoying the celebration dinner were (l.to r.) Scholarship honoree Jadayah Bens-Burgess and her mom Angela Burgess-Williams and honoree Alyssa McCallum and her mom Lisa McCallum.

Staff Updates

Recent grant money has been allocated for a new staff position: Director of Development & Volunteer Engagement. Filling this role is **Sarah Spell**. Her chief responsibility will be to support Joe Ann Fletcher in fundraising and, in particular, managing the grant writing submissions and the compliance and accountability reporting that are essential to retaining and growing funding. Sarah also is tasked with identifying and attracting new funding sources for DFSPB. Her career in fundraising in the South Florida community spans nearly 20 years, and she has been a key player for numerous nonprofits including University of Miami's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County, and Hope for Depression Research Foundation. She's also managed major fundraising events, from galas to golf tournaments. Sarah will be interfacing, as well, with volunteers to ensure both newcomers and those who are legacy find fulfillment in their commitment with us.



New staff members: Sarah Spell and Julia Dorny

Also joining the staff is our new Manager of Community Impact, Programs & Volunteer Relations: **Julia Dorny**. This position largely combines the responsibilities of what was the Program & Outreach Director role along with the volunteer management that fell to our Volunteer Coordinator and is now also shared with Nethel Stephens. Julia comes to us with a background in journalism and experience in building community engagement. She's a fighter – literally and figuratively! She's a world champion athlete with multiple medals in Judo, MMA and Sumo. And she brings that winning attitude to the professional relationships she cultivates and nurtures. A Lake Worth resident the past three years, she is originally from Germany.

And...we are thrilled to welcome **Victoria Velez** back from maternity leave. Her return as Operations Director is on a part-time schedule; she'll work from home most Mondays but be in office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. **Kris Thomas**, who's been actively volunteering the past year and all-around hands-on helpful whenever we've needed, is now our part-time hire as Road to Success Program Administrator.

Finally, though **Maria Bacas-Cook** has stepped down as Volunteer Coordinator, it's hardly a goodbye. She's taking a well-earned break and has offered to be available on need-be basis for us, which is genuinely kind and generous. In the four years she's been with us, she's been a valuable team player with a shared passion for DFSPB that helped to keep us humming. Thank you, Maria.

And, thank you to **Alex Shatara**, who filled in so mightily the past 6 months with staff shortages in Greenacres. What a tour-de-force this woman is and how dearly we appreciate her.

Road to Success

The spring term of Road to Success was completed on June 2 with 27 women graduating. The final session culminated with each participant sharing her vision board and articulating her aspirations for the future. Most exciting was the announcement that 16 of the participants had found employment or were accepted into higher education programs. Dr. Nethel Stephens, the RTS facilitator, and DFSPB's CEO Joe Ann Fletcher hosted the festive send-off proceedings for the grads with 18 proud volunteer mentors applauding their mentees.

The next 6-week term of Road to Success is set for August 5 in Greenacres and September 1 in Broward County. Volunteer mentors wanted...needed! And, if you know someone who might benefit from the program, let's talk. Contact Julia Dorny, 561-249-3898, jdorny@dressforsuccesspb.org.



The RTS curriculum includes a session on self-image when each woman is treated to a basic beauty makeover in preparation for a professional photo portrait that she can post on her Indeed and/or LinkedIn site. Makeup artist Lymar Shaw readies Samika Raphael for her "close up."



Ediana Edouard poses for the camera and our official RTS photographer Stevenson Dor.



RTS grads filled the private dining room at Ruth's Chris Steak House in West Palm Beach where they were feted.



Volunteer mentor Christina Cataggio and mentee Jenica Luctamar with her vision board.



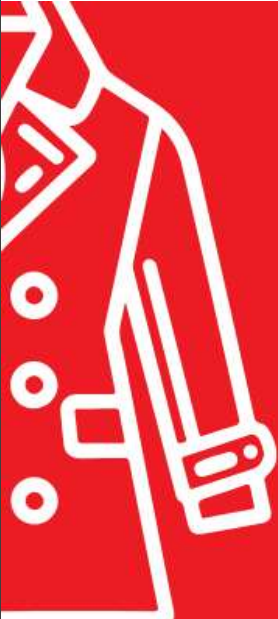
Mentee Andrea Whetstone and mentor Carole Pascal



Mentee Fifi Louis and mentor Jennifer Putnam



Dr. Nethel Stephens delivered final inspirational thoughts for the grads.



SPEAKING

OFF THE CUFF

WITH

Pam Rada



Not long after DFSPB opened its doors in 2010, **Pam Rada** became acquainted with the organization. The South Florida native and graduate of Florida Atlantic had launched her marketing career in retail, and we were in search of a location for staging our fledgling Shop for Success Pop-Up Sale. (Remember when we were at Palm Beach Outlets? That was thanks to Pam.) Our connection with one another since has yielded nearly a decade of tremendous mutual benefits. Pam became a diehard volunteer, joining the Y.E.S.! committee and eventually chairing the group. In 2020, she became our Board Chair, a role she continued in through the pandemic, stepping down in 2023. During her tenure, we won the 2021 Hat's Off Award as Best Small Nonprofit, and she was instrumental in recruiting our CEO Joe Ann Fletcher. An ongoing matchmaker, Pam has engaged numerous community influencers to join our volunteer ranks, with several ascending to leadership roles on the Board of Directors, where she continues to serve, heading the Education Committee plus participating on the Marketing Committee.

Pam currently is the Market Director of Marketing for Wellington Regional Medical Center, Alan B. Miller Medical Center, and ER at Westlake. She's also on the Board of Directors of the South Florida Fair. Somehow, between work, volunteering, and being an active soccer mom, she found time to start Girl Scout Troop #24237 and is one of its leaders which means more face time with her and husband Mike's 10-year-old daughter Olivia. A little-known surprising Pam fact: She enjoys roller skating and had a brief stint in roller derby competition. Pam is fearless, peerless and clearly a valuable Team-DFSPB player!

What's your favorite vacation destination?

My favorite destinations tend to blend culture and relaxation. I absolutely loved traveling to Italy and Spain—the architecture, incredible food, and rich experiences really stood out. That said, I'm just as happy somewhere I can unwind, enjoy the scenery, and treat myself to a great massage.

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

Nicole Richie, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and my 2 grandmothers – both passed when I was younger, and I'd love the chance to sit down with them, hear their stories, and learn more about our family.

What's your all-time favorite movie?

A Bronx Tale

Ice cream or cake?

Ice Cream

What's a good spy code name for you?

Thin Mint

Who or what inspires you?

My biggest inspiration is my daughter, who motivates me every day to set a positive example and try to be the best version of myself.

Our
**\$INCERE
THANK\$**



Utterly exciting news: **Community Foundation of Palm Beach & Martin Counties** has awarded us a \$75,000 grant. To top it off, it's being appropriated as a multi-level, 3-year cycle commitment, which, if you do the math, means we'll be receiving \$225,000 through 2028. Wowza! This renewing partnership is extraordinary, humbling, and fills us with immense gratitude.



Peek into our boutique and you'll see the display area of shoes and handbags has been christened the "Soles and Sacs Wall" thanks to an extremely generous five-figure contribution from Circle of Impact member **Patricia Dautch** in honor of her family and their Buffalo-based retail business. It's a thoughtful gift and tribute for which we are deeply grateful.



Jacarlene Foundation is a new resource for DFSPB, and right off the starting block its magnanimity is staggering. The Florida-based organization has granted us \$65,000! We are indebted to **Sheri Brown Grosvenor** for proposing that we submit a request.

And, we must acknowledge the phenomenal infusion of revenue from our Spring Pop-Up. All told we netted \$42,500. This included not only our 2-day flash sale, but also two weeks later an evening shopping experience for **Women Executives of the Palm Beaches**. FYI...Similar private events for groups such as this are being considered for the future. HUGE THANKS for this HUGE TAKE are due to Pop-Up co-chairs extraordinaire **Rhonda Russell** and **Marlene Feldman** and their fellow Merchandising Team members plus all volunteers who "worked" the sales.

The Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship, Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship and the West Palm Entrepreneurship and Adversity Program (WPEAP) present:



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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.

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