Dress for Success Worldwide
2017 Annual Report

Mission

The mission of Dress for Success® Worldwide 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.

By the Numbers

This year marked a year of milestones and accomplishments for Dress for Success. We celebrated our 20th Anniversary supporting women on their journey to financial independence. We surpassed one million women served—more than 74,000 in 2017 alone—and welcomed 12 new affiliates to our global network, extending our reach to 153 affiliates in 28 countries.

Our women reflect the diversity of the communities and cultures in which our network operates; following is a glimpse into the women we serve:

64% Live below poverty line
57% Mothers
40% Single mothers
50% Some level of higher education

2017 Program Accomplishments

We continued to impact lives through programs designed to address the women we serve across the full employment life cycle, meeting each woman where she needed support and helping her to gain the confidence and skills to achieve self-defined success. Following are highlights of 2017 programming with data provided for signature programs run by Dress for Success Worldwide:

Suiting Program: our global affiliate network provided more than 54,000 suitings to women preparing for upcoming interviews and another 24,000 appointments for professional attire for
those who secured employment after their initial visit. These women also had access to career centers and pre-employment supports such as resume reviews and mock interviewing.

Going Places Network (GPN): Sponsored by the Walmart Foundation, GPN helps unemployed and underemployed women develop professional skills and accelerate job searches to secure gainful employment, with 76% of completers securing jobs within 60 days of the program end.

Retail Trajectory Program (RJT): Also with the support of Walmart, Dress for Success launched a new program in 20 affiliates across the US to support career development for women in the retail sector, leading to growth and advancement opportunities with 10% of women securing promotions, 20% receiving salary increases and 30% taking on leadership roles in their jobs.

Employment Retention: Programs such as the Professional Women’s Group (PWG) provide newly employed women with supports, practical guidance, and a peer network to motivate and inspire them to remain employed. The program’s impact is in the numbers, with 80% of participants remaining employed after one year and 23% receiving promotions.

Financial Education and My Financial (My Fi) Success Programs: These program ensure that the women we serve develop a foundation for financial independence, from basic financial literacy to establishing long term financial plans. Outcomes include 80% of financial education participants building emergency savings funds and/or reducing debt within six months and 80% of My Fi participants reaching one of their asset management goals.

AXA Pursuit Beyond the Suit Scholarship Program: Sponsored by AXA, five women received scholarships to support their pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degrees to help them advance in their careers and professional endeavors.

Career Hub: Sponsored by FedEx, Dress for Success piloted a digital learning platform this year to provide women with real time, flexible access to resources and supports beyond brick and mortar. Initial digital offerings include pre-employment programming and the RJT program.

B Strong Initiative: Through the vision and support of Bethenny Frankel, Dress for Success launched the B Strong Initiative to provide financial support to women in crisis to help them address immediate financial needs so that they can return to a place of stability. In 2017, close to $200,000 went to women in crisis and to Dress for Success affiliates and the women they serve in regions affected by severe natural disasters.

Lifelong Learning: Engagement with Dress for Success merely starts with the suit. Women who remain engaged with our organization benefit from access to an array of programs to support their personal and professional journeys, including peer networking through the Associate Professional Women’s Group, leadership and civic engagement opportunities through the annual Success Summit women’s leadership conference, mentoring and leadership development through programs such as the newly created LeadHerShip Program by The Carnival Foundation and the Community Action Project through which women reinvest as leaders in their own communities.
As we look to the next 20 years, Dress for Success Worldwide celebrates the achievement of the past two decades and the role the organization plays as a global leader in women’s economic empowerment. With an eye to the future, Dress for Success is sharply focused on its vision of a world where women do not live in poverty; are treated with dignity and respect; and are strengthening their families and shaping their communities.

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Financial Information

Total Income $22,995,773

Total Expenses $22,752,666

- Program $20,094,570
- Administrative $603,157
- Fundraising $2,054,939

Net Assets $5,391,782