

## **DRESS FOR SUCCESS FACT SHEET**

### **Who we are:**

The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

### **The women we serve:**

- Are single mothers (70%), raising an average of 2-3 children.
- Represent all ethnicities and races.
- Range in age from 18-60, with the majority age 18-38.

### **How we work:**

Dress for Success provides each woman with a business suit when she has a job interview. When she successfully lands the job, she returns to Dress for Success for up to one week's worth of business-appropriate separates. She also receives an invitation to join the Professional Women's Group, our career development and networking group, and participate in other employment retention programs such as the Career Center, mentoring and career fairs. Dress for Success serves job-ready women by referral only from more than 3,000 non-profit organizations including domestic violence agencies, homeless shelters and job-training programs.

### **What we achieve:**

Our programs transition women towards self-sufficiency by addressing their social and economic needs in relation to work, home and community. Each woman is a success story: She has gone from unemployment to economic *independence*.

The results of our programs speak for themselves:

- Dress for Success has suited more than 450,000 women since our inception in 1997.
- In 2007 alone, Dress for Success served more than 45,000 women.
- Dress for Success has affiliate locations in more than 90 cities across the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Mexico, Poland and the West Indies.
- 75% of Professional Women's Group members have retained their jobs after one year.
- 62% of Professional Women's Group members have been promoted and/or received salary increases.
- 60% of Professional Women's Group members have improved their credit.
- 57% of Professional Women's Group members have furthered their education by enrolling in or completing a GED or college program.