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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Dress for Success Worldwide – Central Opens Its Doors to Help Women in Chicago Get Back to Work**

**Chicago, IL – (December 7, 2010)** Dress for Success Worldwide, an international not-for-profit organization, celebrated the grand opening of its Central regional office this morning. Located at 515 N. State Street, Dress for Success Worldwide – Central will serve low-income women in Chicago by providing services to help them gain employment and become self-sufficient. The office will also offer support and resources to the organization's more than 20 local affiliates in the Midwest and central Canada. Dress for Success anticipates serving more than 750 women next year in Chicago. The Walmart Foundation provided \$100,000 to help establish this new office.

"With the launch of Dress for Success Worldwide – Central, we will be able to serve more women in Chicago and positively influence not only them but their children as well," said Joi Gordon, CEO of Dress for Success Worldwide. "We are deeply grateful for Walmart's support in establishing this regional center of excellence for our organization."

Dress for Success has more than 100 affiliates in nine countries and has undergone tremendous growth in recent years. As a regional center, Dress for Success Worldwide – Central will serve as a model program, developing and sharing best practices, and as a regional hub where affiliates can gather for training and other activities. Last year, the organization launched Dress for Success Worldwide – West, the regional office in Los Angeles, to serve the same purpose on the West Coast.

"Through our regional offices in Los Angeles and Chicago and our main headquarters in New York City, we are now able to provide additional support to our affiliates across the country," Ms. Gordon noted. "By strengthening our presence and capacity as a nonprofit organization, we are able to serve more women who need our services and expand the breadth and depth of our career development and employment retention programs."

"At Walmart, we've looked for ways to make long-lasting impact in neighborhoods across Chicago by funding programs that address critical needs, particularly workforce development," said Julie Murphy, senior vice president, Walmart U.S., who is based in Chicago. "We are proud to help Dress for Success establish an office here and look forward to helping them build a strong network of volunteers and donors to support its mission in Chicago."

Interior design services for the Chicago office were provided on a pro bono basis by Suzanne Lovell, Inc., a full service architectural interior design firm with offices in Chicago and New York. The firm is known for its unique approach toward the design of environments that showcase architectural sophistication and express a passion for lifestyle through the complete integration of art, architecture, furniture and textiles.

Dress for Success is seeking volunteers and donors to support the organization in Chicago. Ways to get involved include making a monetary contribution, volunteering as a personal shopper, Career Center counselor or speaker, hosting an event and many more opportunities. Interested individuals and corporations can get more information at [www.dressforsuccess.org/worldwidecentral](http://www.dressforsuccess.org/worldwidecentral). In addition, from December 10-12, Sutton Studio at Bloomingdale's North Michigan will host a suit drive to benefit Dress for Success Worldwide – Central's grand opening. Shoppers who donate a new or nearly new suit during the promotion will receive 20% off their Sutton suit purchase in-store.

#### About Dress for Success

Dress for Success is an international not-for-profit organization that promotes 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. Since starting operations in 1997, Dress for Success has expanded to more than 100 cities in the U.S., Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the UK and the West Indies. To date, Dress for Success has helped more than 550,000 women work towards self-sufficiency. Visit [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org) to learn more.

#### About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

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