



**DRESS FOR SUCCESS**<sup>®</sup>  
*Suits to Self-Sufficiency*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DRESS FOR SUCCESS WORLDWIDE TO OPEN REGIONAL OFFICE IN CHICAGO**

*The Walmart Foundation Gives \$100,000 to Help Establish the Office*

**Chicago, IL – (August 1, 2010)** Dress for Success Worldwide, an international non-profit organization that helps disadvantaged women achieve economic independence, announced today it will open a regional office in Chicago by the end of the year, with the Walmart Foundation providing \$100,000 to help launch the office.

Dress for Success Worldwide – Central will serve low-income women in Chicago by providing services to help them gain employment and become self-sufficient. Dress for Success expects to serve thousands of women annually through the program in Chicago. The office will also offer training and resources to the organization's more than 20 local affiliates in the Midwest and central Canada.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have increased giving to programs that provide job skills training to those hit hardest by the economic downturn, including grants to help train displaced workers for the next chapter in their careers.

"Dress for Success Worldwide – Central will enable us to expand and enhance our existing services in Chicago and pilot new programs that will be rolled out regionally," 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."

The announcement was made at the organization's annual *Success Summit*, a leadership conference for women served by Dress for Success affiliates around the world and the volunteers and staff who manage the programs locally. More than 110 women attended the *Success Summit* from July 30 – August 1 at Hotel Palomar in Chicago.

"It's a tough economy and we're focused on supporting programs that promote job training to ensure people looking for work have the skills and confidence they need to find success," said Julie Murphy, senior vice president of Midwest operations at Walmart. "Now more than ever, we are supporting programs that help people get ahead at work and in life."

Last month, Walmart announced the "Chicago Community Investment Partnership," a long-term initiative that seeks to open several dozen stores, create 12,000 jobs, generate \$500 million in sales tax revenue and develop charitable partnerships worth \$20 million in the city. The retailer is looking for ways to make a long-lasting impact in neighborhoods across Chicago by funding programs that address critical needs, like hunger, education and job training.

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

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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).

#### 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 110 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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