

*“Our concern is not where our clients have been, but **where they are going.**”*

### Our History

In 1996, an altruistic law student received a \$5,000 inheritance from her great grandfather. With a desire to honor his memory and a heart for helping others, Dress for Success® founder Nancy Lublin transformed his hard-earned money into a gift. One that would enable women who once faced personal hardships to earn their own money and build new lives.

Since then, the grassroots start-up, which began with the help of three nuns from Spanish Harlem, has grown into an international not-for-profit organization promoting the economic independence of disadvantaged women worldwide. Today, under the leadership of CEO Joi Gordon, Dress for Success serves women in more than 115 cities across the world and is uniquely positioned as a global leader in women’s employment issues.

### 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 career development tools to help them thrive in work and in life.

### What We Do

Our programs help women achieve financial independence by addressing their social and economic needs in relation to work, home and community. We help disadvantaged women find and maintain employment. We also help them achieve health and wellness, as well as self-defined financial and professional success.

### The Women We Serve

- Are referred to Dress for Success by more than 3,000 non-profit organizations, including domestic violence agencies, homeless shelters and job-training programs
- Lived under the poverty level prior to coming to Dress for Success
- Represent all ethnicities and races
- Range in age from 18-60; the majority are ages 18-38
- Are single mothers (70%), raising, on average, 2-3 children

### How We Work

Dress for Success provides professional clothing and counseling for each of our women. When a client secures a job interview, we provide her with one free business suit, as well as the appropriate accessories, footwear, and cosmetic/toiletry items. When she successfully lands the job, she returns to Dress for Success for up to one week’s worth of business attire. In addition to suiting, Dress for Success offers women a number of programs to help them find and retain employment, including the **Career Center, the Going Places Network, the Professional Women’s Group, and the Financial Literacy Program.** Dress for Success serves job-ready women by referral only.