# DRESS FOR SUCCESS AUSTIN





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### Dear DFSA family,

As we reflect on 2023, we are filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering dedication to our mission. Your commitment has empowered hundreds of women to unlock their potential and begin their journey to independence and the ability to support themselves and their families.

### In 2023 we discovered:

- The need for our services continues to increase year-after-year as women are redefining their career goals and trying to earn a living wage.
- Our programs are giving women the career tools they need to leave domestic violence and insecure housing situations. In 2023, 45% of our clients experienced domestic violence and 30% experienced homelessness or were living in a shelter.
- After completing their first program, each client is returning to participate in an additional workforce development program at least 3 more times (a 152% increase from 2022), proving our programs are solidly supporting career success!
- Virtual programming remains imperative, with clients choosing this option 46% of the time to mitigate transportation and childcare obstacles.
- 84% of our clients are the head of their household, and 75% are mothers which means they need to earn at least \$32.49/hour to support themselves and their families.

### Together, in 2024, we will:

- Continue to help Central Texas women set goals that will guide them to a satisfying and sustainable career.
- Reduce the time it takes for women to secure employment by offering our Path to Employment program year round. **90% of the Path to Employment graduates who were actively seeking employment found a job after program completion**.

We continue to be inspired by the accomplishments of the women we serve - their renewed confidence, newfound skills, and strengthened sense of hope that shines through every woman who walks through our doors. With your support, we are beginning 2024 with optimism and an even stronger commitment to serving more Central Texas women.

Sincerely,

Mia Johns Executive Director



## 2023 IMPACT

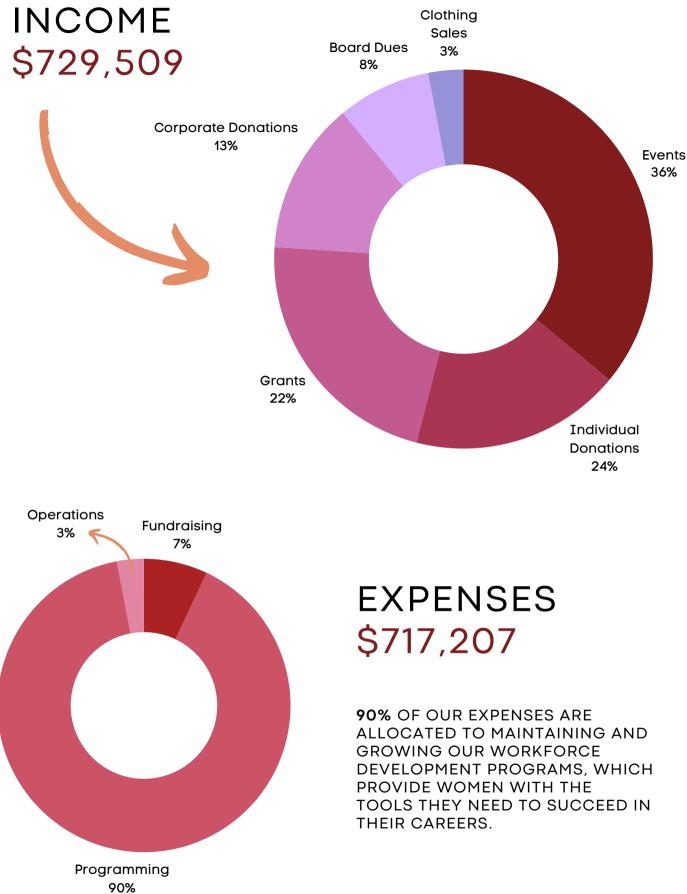




We support women through **six** workforce development programs designed to help them become economically independent: **mentoring**, **financial education**, **one-on-one career coaching**, **employment retention**, **veteran support**, **and professional styling**.

In 2023, more women returned for assistance at a rate of 3.92 units of service\* per client, **131% higher** than our projected goal. We were thrilled to see the significant impact of our programs, by clients returning not just once, but **nearly four times**, to access our services.

\*Units of service = the total number of hour-long appointments held



### WHO

84%

of our clients are single\*

\*this includes separated, divorced + widowed women DO WE

45%

of our clients have experienced domestic violence

### SERVE?

75%

mothers\*

\*and 62% have at least one child under 18

of our clients identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community

62%

of our clients are working towards or have completed **a** college degree **30%** of our clients are

living in government housing, shelters or experiencing homelessness

of our clients identify as Hispanic/Latinx

27% identify as Black/African-American

26% identify as white

**14%** identify as multi-racial, other, Asian-American or Indigenous American

dial of our clients earn \$0-9K/year (\$0-4/hour)

**17%** earn \$31-40K/year (**\$15-19/hour**)

**10%** earn \$20-30K/year (**\$10-14/hour**)

Austin's living wage is \$32.49/hour for single parents with one child, according to MIT's living wage calculator 76% of our clients fall between 20 and 49

years old

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### CLIENT SPOTLIGHTS

#### ROYA IS EMPOWERED TO PURSUE HER DREAM CAREER

Roya graduated from our Path to Employment program. With the help of a mentor, she has fine-tuned her resume and cover letter, and gained the confidence to pursue a role as an executive assistant.

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#### JULIANA STRIVES TO BE THE NEXT LONGHORN WOMAN IN TECH

Originally from San Antonio and a second generation college student, Juliana is looking forward to pursuing a career in UX research, a male dominated field.

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#### ASINAH IS TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES IN KENYA WHILE ENHANCING HER CAREER

Asinah shares how she's utilized tools from Dress for Success Austin to start a women's group and youth group in her home country of Kenya.

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#### SALIYAH PURSUES A NEW CAREER AND FUELS HER PATH WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

Saliyah is a working mother pursuing a career in communications with plans to return to school to earn her bachelor's degree and inspire her sons.

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### TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS







### SUSTAINABILITY

THROUGH CONSIGNMENT & RECYCLING



raised in clothing sales

8



tons of CO2 saved



gallons of water saved



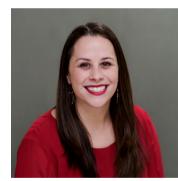
MIA JOHNS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LAURIE ANNEAR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



CANDY CANTRELL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT



LINDY WARNER PROGRAM MANAGER



SYDNEY PIWONKA DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR



T E



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ALEXIA LOPEZ COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



HIBAH SIDDIQUI COMMUNITY & CLIENT ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

### THANK Y

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We empower women+ to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help them thrive in work and in life.

