

2024

IMPACT REPORT



**DRESS FOR
SUCCESS**
CINCINNATI

25 YEARS OF IMPACT:

Celebrating a
Legacy of
Empowerment

BREAKING BARRIERS:

How We're
Changing the
Workplace for
Women

**OVER 1,300
WOMEN
SERVED IN
2024**





Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I step into the role of CEO of Dress for Success Cincinnati (DFSC), I am deeply inspired by the incredible legacy of this organization and the transformative impact we have made together over the past year. While I joined in November 2024, I have quickly come to appreciate the unwavering commitment of our team, volunteers, and donors who empower women to thrive personally and professionally.

This year was particularly momentous as we celebrated our 25th anniversary, a milestone that underscores decades of resilience, innovation, and community support. From Styling Services to Thriving Services, we have expanded our reach and deepened our relationships with the women we serve.

2024 also saw record-breaking participation in our signature events, including the annual Fashion Show, which brought together hundreds of supporters to celebrate the strength and perseverance of our clients. Additionally, we made strides in addressing critical barriers to success by providing resources such as transportation assistance and individualized coaching.

As we look ahead, I am eager to build upon this incredible foundation. Together, we will continue to evolve, innovate, and advocate for the women in our community. Your support makes it all possible, and I am deeply grateful to each of you for believing in our mission.

Here's to another year of empowering women and creating lasting change.

With gratitude,

Meggan Thompson
President & CEO



BOARD

Garri Davis, Board Chair
Xaviera Edwards, Vice Chair
Jaci Overmann, Secretary
Ron Hitzler, Treasurer

Travina Adams MPA, CPM
Sowmya Aggarwal
Kathleen Armstong CPA
Jessica Bacher
Lissa Bertke
Israel Bonnell
Carolyn Gorman
Emily Keller
René Robers
Ginny Schumacher
Tierra Strickland
Amanda van Rooyen
Jody Yetzer

As of 4/15/2025

STAFF

Tierra Adabla, Thriving Services Manager

Kate Black, Styling Services Manager

Abbie Calvert, Career and Mobile Coordinator

Maria Downes, Styling Coordinator – Life Learning Center

Ajiaga Eldridge, Thriving Services Coach

Megan Finn, Marketing & Communication Specialist

Ann Haas, Portaluca Sales Associate

Gwen Kelly, Admin & Development Coordinator

Jane Kennedy, Portaluca Sales Associate

Dolly Lindley, Portaluca Sales Associate

Ann Margolis, Portaluca Boutique Manager

Courtney Shannon, Volunteer Manager

Anna Tassell, Thriving Services Coach

Meggan Thompson, President & CEO

Missy Walters, Styling Coordinator – The Care Center

Esther Wing, Portaluca Sales Associate

Megan Zarnitz, VP of Programs & Strategic Initiatives

Tracey Zwick, Chief Operating Officer

As of 4/15/2025



THRIVING SERVICES

In 2024, Thriving Services continued to evolve, deepening our commitment to providing personalized, long-term support for women on their professional and personal journeys. Through programs like our co-hort based Women's Circle, our monthly Women's Connect meeting, and our 1:1 Coaching, we focused on building stronger connections with clients, offering individualized coaching, peer support groups, and new client experiences tailored to their goals.

This year, we expanded access to critical resources that address the barriers many women face in sustaining employment and advancing in their careers. With increased funding, we provided more transportation assistance, including bus passes and gas cards, ensuring that women could reliably get to work, interviews, and career coaching sessions. Additionally, we enhanced our mentorship and networking opportunities, helping women build the confidence and connections needed to thrive.

By prioritizing long-term engagement and community-driven support, Thriving Services has empowered more women to not only secure jobs but also to grow, lead, and achieve their full potential. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to strengthening these initiatives, ensuring that every woman who walks through our doors has the tools and support she needs to create lasting success.

80

women participated in our HigherHER Career Development Program

93

women received coaching in our Career Center

83%

of women achieved a career or self-sufficiency milestone



STYLING SERVICES

In 2024, our Styling Services continued to empower women by providing professional attire and personal styling experiences tailored to their unique needs. Through StyleHER, we helped women prepare for job interviews, workplace transitions, and career advancements with wardrobe selections that not only fit the dress code but also boosted their confidence.

This year, we expanded our mobile styling events, bringing our services directly to women in the community who may face transportation or accessibility barriers. By partnering with local organizations and businesses, we extended our reach and ensured that more women could step into opportunities looking and feeling their best.

With every outfit, we are not just providing clothes—we are reinforcing self-assurance, ambition, and a sense of belonging in the workplace. As we move forward, we remain committed to evolving our services to meet the needs of every woman we serve, ensuring she is dressed for success in every sense of the word.



We completed
1,293
styling appointments

98%
of women felt more confident
after their styling appointments

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Women's Circle

In 2024, DFSC proudly launched our new Women's Circle—a powerful initiative designed to foster deeper connection, shared learning, and personal growth. Rooted in community and support, Women's Circles bring together small groups of women to explore their goals, build confidence, and support one another on their journey to economic independence.

In our first year, **12 women joined the experience**, forming strong bonds and creating a safe space to share challenges and celebrate successes. We're excited to expand this program and continue cultivating community-centered support that uplifts every woman we serve.

Our programs and events served

**1,337
women**

(37% increase from
2023!)

We received
referrals from over

130

community
partners

"Thank you for creating a space to encourage and support women exactly where they are in life. I met so many amazing women from every walk of life."

—Women's Circle participant

89%

of women served
were under 200%
of the Federal
Poverty Level

Mobile Services

In 2024, DFSC continued to bring our mission directly to the women who need us most through our Mobile Services. By meeting women where they are—in neighborhoods, libraries, community centers, and partner organizations—we're breaking down barriers to access and expanding our impact.

We completed **321 mobile stylings**, providing professional attire, confidence, and support to women preparing for interviews, new jobs, or career advancement. With every mobile visit, we're not just delivering clothing—we're delivering opportunity, dignity, and hope.



FASHION SHOW

The 2024 DFSC Fashion Show was a powerful celebration of our 25th anniversary and the women we serve. Held at the historic Cincinnati Museum Center, the evening brought together supporters, partners, clients, and volunteers for a night of fashion and inspiration.

Former client and current board member, Tierra Strickland, emceed the event, sharing her personal story and kicking off an evening that highlighted the impact of our mission. Honorary Chair, Jackie Reau, founding board member and CEO of Game Day Communications, reflected on our growth and shared her continued commitment to empowering women.

We heard an inspiring testimonial from Karoonah, a DFSC client, and honored Tierra Strickland with the Mary Ivers Award for her extraordinary service and dedication. The evening also marked a leadership transition as we thanked outgoing CEO, Lisa Nolan, for her seven years of service and welcomed new CEO, Meggan Thompson.



The runway featured styles from Donna Salyers' Fabulous Furs and designer Gerardo Encinas, modeled by clients and supporters. Thanks to presenting sponsor Kerry Automotive Group and our generous community, we raised over **\$425,000** to expand our programs and impact.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a success. **Your support propels our mission forward and helps us continue changing lives—one woman at a time.**



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for the 2025 DFSC Fashion Show—happening Friday, September 12th at Mercantile Immersive!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of fashion, inspiration, and community as we celebrate the strength and success of the women we serve. Stay tuned for more details!



THROUGH HER EYES

Dressing from the Inside Out: My Journey with Dress for Success Cincinnati *Written by DFSC Client, LaToya Bagley.*

Thirteen years ago, I found myself in a place I never imagined—living in a homeless shelter off Fourth Street. Life had thrown more challenges my way than I knew how to handle, and I was doing everything I could to rebuild. That's when I first learned about Dress for Success Cincinnati. At the time, I was preparing for an interview at a casino that was still under construction. The problem? I didn't have anything appropriate to wear, nor did I have the money to buy it. I walked into DFSC thinking I was just getting an outfit.



▲ Left: LaToya in 2012 after her first styling at DFSC
Right: LaToya in 2024

But what I quickly realized was that this organization does more than dress your body—it helps dress your insides. And for me, the inside was where I had the biggest struggle. The fitting wasn't just about clothes; it was about confidence, self-worth, and feeling like I belonged in the room. That experience was a turning point. I left that fitting not only looking ready for my interview but feeling ready for my future. And guess what? I got the job.

Even after securing employment, I stayed connected with DFSC through emails and newsletters, always inspired by the resources and opportunities they provided. That's how I discovered the Women's Circle program—a six-week journey that lit a fire inside me that has yet to go out. Returning to DFSC years later, I was reminded of the safe space they create for women. This time, it wasn't about dressing for an interview—it was about dressing up my insides. The support, encouragement, and personal development I gained helped me rebuild my confidence in a way I didn't know I needed.

Today, I am most proud of the work I have done on myself and I have a journal series in which I am 95% completed with—The “What the F” Journal Series. This project is my heart's work, focusing on the five most important areas of my life: Faith, Finances, Family, Fitness, and Friends. My goal is to help others stay focused on what truly matters and to fix only what's needed—when it's needed—because we are already enough.

To any woman who is struggling, you are more than your circumstances. Sometimes, all it takes is one outfit, one program, one moment of support to remind you of your worth. DFSC is that place—a space where women are not just dressed for success, but empowered to step into it. My journey isn't over, but thanks to DFSC, I know I am more than enough. And so are you!

WAYS TO SUPPORT

There are so many ways to support our mission at DFSC—and every contribution helps local women take meaningful steps toward self-sufficiency, confidence, and community impact.

Make a Financial Gift: Your donation is more than just a gift—it's an investment in a woman's future. Contributions help sustain and grow our programs, allowing us to adapt and respond to the evolving needs of the women we serve.

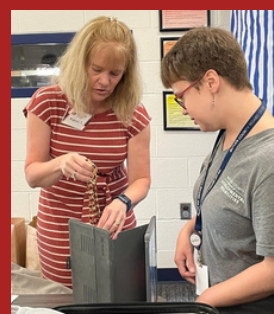
Shop at Portaluca: Located in the heart of Norwood (4623 Wesley Avenue, Suite I), Portaluca is our boutique with a purpose. Every purchase supports women in our community, while offering shoppers affordable, stylish fashion that inspires confidence. 100% of proceeds benefit DFSC.

Donate Clothing: Your gently used or new women's professional attire, shoes, and accessories help power our Styling program. These donations help women dress for job interviews and success in the workplace. Items not used in our Style Studios are sold at Portaluca to support our mission financially.

Volunteer Your Time: Volunteers are the heartbeat of DFSC. Whether styling clients, organizing clothing, or helping behind the scenes, individuals and groups make a direct impact. We simply couldn't do what we do without them.



In 2024, Portaluca transferred **\$70,000** to DFSC, supporting our mission!



In 2024 alone, volunteers served **2,731 hours**, contributing the equivalent of **\$87,000** in service hours.



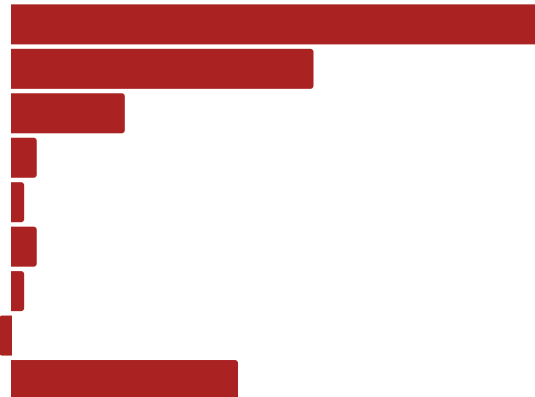
Ready to Get Involved?

Explore all the ways you can partner with us by visiting [**www.dfscincy.org/support-get-involved**](https://www.dfscincy.org/support-get-involved).

FINANCIALS

2024 Support & Revenue

Grants & Contributions	\$698,099	42.17%
Special Events	\$401,365	24.25%
Donated Clothing	\$154,525	9.34%
Other In-Kind Contributions	\$37,270	2.25%
Fee for Service	\$11,400	0.69%
Investment Return	\$30,047	1.82%
Other Revenue	\$15,928	0.96%
Uncollectable Pledges	-\$1,200	-0.07%
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$307,856	18.60%

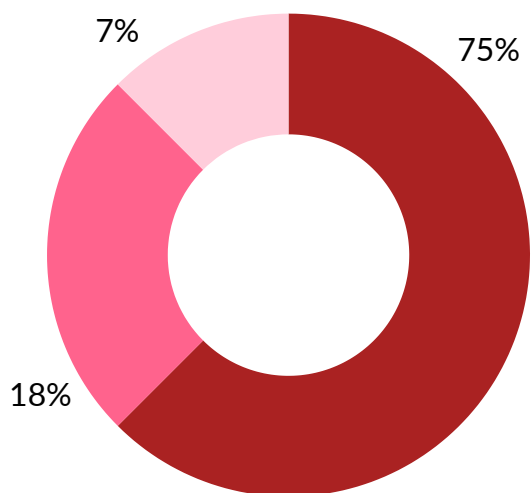


\$1,655,290

2024 Distribution of Expenses

Program	\$1,175,617
Management & General	\$99,788
Fundraising	\$290,130

\$1,565,535



Change in Net Assets

(\$228,901)

End of Year Net Assets

\$1,271,488

CIRCLE OF EMPOWERMENT

*Individual giving of \$2,500 or more to the annual fund between
January 1 and December 31, 2024.**

\$25,000+

Sherie Marek

\$15,000+

Kathy Thornton

\$5,000+

Vicki Herche
Paula Wienkoop Ivers
Pam Kalkhoff

Angie & Wally Lovejoy
Lisa Massa
Anita Minturn
The Oliver Family Foundation
Jennie Rosenthal

Digi & Mike Schueler
Marsha & David Taylor
Barbara Wagner

\$2,500+

Sowmya & Deepak Aggarwal
Stuart & Sarah Aitken
Pamela Barbash
Carol Benning
Amy Bixel
Yael & Judy Cosset
Patty Fernandez

Carolyn Gorman
Frank Heitker
Dan Hodge
Joann Hubert
The Huether Family Fund
Mary Pat Lienhart
Lali Minocha

Carole & Ed Rigaud
Brenda Rixey
Amanda van Rooyen
Heidi Toelke
Nancy & Scott Wandtke
Jody Yetzer
Julie & Dave Zennie

*As hard as we try to avoid them, sometimes errors do occur. If you notice an error, please let us know so we can update our records.

Join the Circle of Empowerment

In 2024, we proudly introduced the Circle of Empowerment, a new donor recognition program celebrating individuals who give \$2,500 or more annually. As a thank you, Circle of Empowerment members receive exclusive invitations to events, special updates, and other unique perks throughout the year.

2024 Giving

\$25,000k+

Individuals recognized in Circle of Empowerment

Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund
George B. Riley Trust Estate
Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Kerry Automotive Group

\$15,000k+

Individuals recognized in Circle of Empowerment

The Edelweiss Foundation
The R.C. Durr Foundation
The Spaulding Foundation
Western & Southern Financial Group

\$10,000k+

Individuals recognized in Circle of Empowerment

The DeVille DAF of the Fund for Charitable Giving
Sycamore Capital Charitable Fund
Talbots
Thomas J. Emery Memorial
The Unnewehr Foundation

\$5,000k+

Individuals recognized in Circle of Empowerment

Accenture, LLP
Adecco Group US Foundation
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp
AuguStar Financial
Cincinnati Business Courier
Cincinnati International Wine Festival
Clairity, Inc.
DayMark Wealth Partners
Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation
Fifth Third Bank
The Forker-Smith Foundation
Game Day Communications
Great American Insurance Group
Hamilton Community Foundation
Hotel Covington
KAO Brands
Mercy Health Partners
Mondelez Foods
Oswald Companies
PM Foundation
REDI Cincinnati
Rhinstahl Corporation
SC Ministry Foundation
The Hillman Group
Truepoint Wealth Counsel
Wente Vinyards
Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation

\$2,500k+

Individuals recognized in Circle of Empowerment

Christ Church Cathedral
Cintas
Forty Under 40 Class of 2023
Harris Product Group
Katz Teller Brant & Hild, LPA
Keating Muething & Klekamp
KeyBank
The Kroger Company
LCBN
Northern Kentucky University
Rhinegeist Brewery
Strauss Troy
ProLink Staffing Services
William P. Anderson Foundation

\$1,000k+

Altafiber
David Barless
Linda Smith Berry
Israel Bonnell
Carol Butler
Sarah Callihan
Christy Carson
Manuel Chavez
Cecelia Chewning
Diana Cheshire
Janet Collins
Mary Ellen Cody
Susan Cranley
MacKenzie Curt
Custom Design Benefits
Meredythe & Clayton Daley
Susan & David Deye
Elizabeth & John Dye
Martha & Paul Feller
Sarah & James Goldman
Jessica Guarnaschelli
Betsy & Dave Hendy
Ron & Sandy Hitzler
Dr. William D. Ivers
Monica Ivers
Stephanie Jones
Joy Josephs
Joint Women's Collaborative – Wyoming
Manisha Kotian
Lori Landrum
Linda Lauch
Cathy McClemens
The Northside Bank & Trust Co.
Price Waterhouse
Bryan Proctor
Revision Collective

Buffie Rixey
Betsy Ross
Maureen Sayre
Adam Schmucker
Kristie Sheanshang
Phyllis Slusher
Robert Strub
Robin Throckmorton
Sarah Thompson
Barbara & Daman Turner
Jennifer Vories
Brenda Wehmer

\$500+

Joy Albi
Linda Allen
Liz Alter
Kathleen Armstrong
Artonomy
Kristen Barber
Melissa Bertke
Shan Bhati
Zach Blasing
Jeffrey & Meredith Blum
Michele Boullie-Nolan
Jacklyn Bryson
Dena Cranley
Amelia Crutcher
Anne Dagenbach
Christine & David Dauenhauer
Mr. & Mrs. James Davis
Anne & Ron DeLyons
Shawn Dornhecker
Amy & Todd Foley
Kimberly Fulmer
Andrea Frieder
Michelle Goret
Kelli Hamilton
Cynthia Henderson
Clint & Jean Haynes
Marty Humes
Jyothi Joseph-Hayes
Emily Keller
Lane Bryant Retailer
Kimberly Lauterbach
Sarah Lucas
Laura Mancini
Karen McFarland
Tim Newcomb
Mary Neyer
Carol Duane Olson
Steve & Geraldine Olson
Ken Patel
Shelley Poffenberger

Mary Beth Puryear
Elizabeth Rader
Q.H.S. Inc.
Rama Ramamurthy
Jennifer Rankin Byrne
Peter Robinson
René Robers
Adrienne Roach
John Rice
Kendra Rienschield
Donna & Jim Salyers
Lynda Schilderink
Shari Schmidt
Ginny Schumacher
Cindy Scovanner
Shepherd Chemical
April Sherrill
Michael Snyder
Sarah Sturgeon
Lisa Tent
Emily Thobe
Erin Timmel
Marcia Togneri
Teri Vogelsang
Jane & Jon Votel
Jamie Van Landuyt
Jamie Williams
Gina Williams
Michael & Tracey Zwick

\$250+

Christine Adams
Fawn Boullie
Mr. & Mrs. John Couzins
Jennifer Damiano
Garri Davis
Gabe DiClerico
Ellen Dick
Xaviera Edwards
Brianna Frappier-Schirman
Garden Club of Fort Thomas
Lindsay Gerdes
Kim Graham
Susan Grathwohl
Lauren Gucciardo
Sherry Hazen
Patricia Hensley
Cali Herzog
Karen & David Hoguet
Elaine Jaeger
Nancy Jaeger
Alecia Kitner
Dr. Renu Kotwal
Lauren Kuley
Lisa Lickert
Dina Marron
Whitney Maxson

Monal Mehta
Jennifer McKinney
Abbie Morandi
Hengameh B. "May" Nassef
Steve Nickolas
Lisa & Evan Nolan
John & Nancy Pater
QualIT Resouces LLC
Karen & Scott Rogers
Dianne & David Rosenberg
Colleen Rumpke
Ravi Saggar
Sarah Sanderson
Chad Shaffer
Deanna Sicking
Judith Smith
Nancy Sparks
Tricia Suit
Meggan Thompson
Courtney Tomasetti
Andrew Trebbi
Nancy Virgulak
Rae Vuic

\$100+

Roberta Allen
Renee Alexander
Karen Berling
Sue Blaney
Anne Blocksom
Patricia Buschmann
Dave Bryson
Kelly Buetsche
Christine Christen
Kathleen DeLaura
Sarah Ditlinger
Maureen Dunne
Margaret Eberhard
Jennifer Elliott
Jeane & George Elliott
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Sherri Friedman
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Eliot Gillum
Catherine Herring
Linda R. Holthaus
Kathryn Hollister
Kimberley Johnson
Vickie Jones
Sharon Ledonne & Tim Mohr
Greg Lauck
Michael Laumann
Sharon Ledonne
Adelaide Lenobel

Barbara Linder
Jerome Linneman
Bev Linnemann
Elizabeth & Paul Mattingly
Janet McGrath
Jan McNerney
Karen McDaniel
Dennis Moriarty
Carolyn Ottke Moore
Leslie & Larry Newman
Susan Noelcke
Alison Nitschke
Neda & Bruce Nutley
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Shelley Paden
Jesal Patel
Sheena Parton
Megeara Pauly
Janelle Paynter
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Caroline Renneker
Jenna Rensch
Courtney Revis
Marie Rusincovitch
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Jill Schiller
Robert Schilling
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Diane Tobey
Marion Townes
Rona Turnheim
Cindy Tsai
Eva Wallace
Anne Wagner
Courtney Weber
Lisa Wendling
Ronald & Alice Weitzenkorn
WFFC Foundation, Inc.
Brianna Wooten
Rosanne & Roger Yetzer
Dan & Xiaojie Zavan



www.dfscincy.org

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Cincinnati, OH 45212



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 Dress for Success Cincinnati



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Success Cincinnati
Today*