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**Amidst the Pandemic, Dress for Success Greater Baltimore Forges Ahead with Its Mission to Help Women Gain Economic Stability**

**Baltimore, MD**—Dress for Success Greater Baltimore is now marching full steam ahead with its mission to help women reenter the workforce and achieve financial independence. Shutdowns from Covid-19 temporarily halted acceptance of much needed clothing donations to help outfit women with suitable professional wardrobes.

The nonprofit Dress for Success Greater Baltimore, in conjunction with its parent company, Suited to Succeed, helps women who are on welfare or underemployed, obtain the clothes they need so they can interview for jobs and land those positions.

“There’s a need in the Baltimore area for organizations like this because there are women who can’t afford the business attire and it’s all about dressing for success,” said Evelyn Gaines, Board Chair, Suited to Succeed/Dress for Success Greater Baltimore. “If they’re going out in the professional community and they don’t have the proper attire, they may not get the job, and then once they get the job, if they don’t have the attire to keep the job, they may lose it. We find the unemployment rate in the Baltimore area is about 10% for women—minority women— so this is one way we can help women get back into the workplace and reduce that unemployment rate.”

The pandemic has resulted in record numbers of unemployment nationwide. Since shutdowns from the pandemic have been lifted, Dress for Success Greater Baltimore has resumed accepting donations at its new location in Port Covington and re-opening its doors to women in need. While at the old location in downtown Baltimore, the nonprofit saw on average as many as 200 women per month. The organization is hopeful that turnout numbers will increase.

Dress for Success Greater Baltimore also assists women in other ways besides providing clothing. They offer seminars on resume’ writing and other skills like balancing a checkbook and developing healthy eating habits, since many of the women that come through are young women searching for plus-size clothing.

“At this point, we don’t do any job training, but we do have a career placement program where we will provide a computer where folks can come in on a laptop or the desktop we have and they can look up job opportunities, but we don’t actually do any job training,” said Gaines. “We can do mock interviews, so before they go out on their actual interview, we’ll sit down with them and teach them how to look the person in the eye and properly sit up and also what the appropriate attire is to go out on that interview.”

Donations of professional clothing or accessories can be made at 250 W. Dickman Street, Monday through Friday, 10am-3pm. Monetary donations can also be mailed there, as well.

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