

# Volunteer Happenings

*The mission of Dress for Success<sup>®</sup> Northwest Arkansas is to promote the economic independence of women by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help them thrive in work and in life.*

## Introducing Our New Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Ajia Mignon as the new executive director for Dress for Success Northwest Arkansas. Ajia joins us from Kansas City, Mo. where she served as the director of operations for the Ewing Marion Kauffman School, a college preparatory school that helps urban students achieve high academic levels.

As a non-profit professional, Ajia has worked to empower women in every position she's held throughout her career.

She has extensive experience in training, strategic planning, and organizational development and has personally overseen exponential targeted growth for multiple organizations.

"We are delighted to have Ajia lead our growing organization," said Jane Behrends, co-founder of Dress for Success NWA. "Her passion for non-profit work and inspiring women is evident the moment you meet her."

Ajia earned her Juris Doctor/MBA from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. and Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California. She was recognized as a 2013 Rising Star by the Kansas City Business Magazine, and in 2012, she was selected as Hero of the Year by Gladstone Elementary in Kansas City, Mo.

"As the Executive Director for the northwest Arkansas affiliate, I am excited to join such a dynamic organization and I look forward to continuing to build upon Dress for Success' legacy of service to women in our community," Ajia said.

"Since 1997, Dress for Success has served to empower and support women in attaining financial independence and developing their careers," Ajia said. "In 2015, we plan to increase the number of women served and also the services that we provide. Be on the lookout for our Career Center and additional skills training opportunities."

Please join us for the next suit sorting Saturday or stop by the boutique to meet Ajia in person and welcome her to Northwest Arkansas and Dress for Success NWA.



**Ajia Mignon**

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## Boutique Needs

Our biggest needs in the boutique are suits, jackets, dress shirts, blouses and shoes.

### Professional attire needed:

- Blouses: size XL, XXL
- Slacks: size 24, 26 and 28
- Suits: size 2, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 22
- Dress shirts: size 16, 18, 24, 26 and 28
- Jackets: size 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18
- Shoes: size 9, 10, 11
- Undergarments: bras

Donations can be dropped off at the boutique on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Suit Sorting Saturday

**What:** Come together to sort clothing, organize and merchandise the boutique.

**When:** Feb. 7

**Time:** 9 to 11 a.m.

**Where:** Dress for Success  
NWA Boutique

As of Dec. 31, Dress for Success<sup>®</sup> Northwest Arkansas conducted 225 suitings with women across the region.

## ▶▶ Help Wanted ◀◀

*We are in search of a wide variety of volunteers for several roles*

### Volunteer Committee Lead:

We are in need of a volunteer committee lead who will become a member of the Board of Operations. The person in this role will lead the strategic sourcing and retention of volunteers, partner with the marketing committee to plan and host events that celebrate our volunteers and express the needs of DFS NWA. This person would also plan and host monthly suit sorting Saturdays, and will meet monthly with the executive director and vice president of the Board of Operations. This role requires a commitment of five to 10 hours per month.

### Volunteer Committee Member:

We are in need of three to five volunteers to assist the volunteer committee lead. Volunteers will help source other volunteers to fill the needs of DFS NWA, and provide daytime boutique support. Committee members will also assist in the planning of volunteer events, as well as become an advocate for our organization. This role requires a commitment of five hours per month.

### Secretary for Board of Operations:

We are in need of a secretary to the Board of Operations. The person in this role will work closely with the new executive director, Ajia Mignon, to prepare for monthly meetings and take meeting minutes. The person in this role will also take on additional administrative tasks as needed, which includes data entry, process documentation and mail outs. This role requires a commitment of five to 10 hours a month.

### Mentors:

We are in need of people who can lead our mentoring program, as well as create and lead workshops for the career center. Mentors would create and cover a wide variety of topics that include personal branding and the use of a LinkedIn profile, public speaking, and time management. The anticipated time commitment for this role is 10 hours for material development and two to five hours to lead a workshop.

To apply, please send an email of interest to: [volunteers@dressforsuccess.nwa.com](mailto:volunteers@dressforsuccess.nwa.com)