

# Trends letter



## Mission

Suited for Change empowers women seeking financial independence and self-sufficiency by providing professional attire, style mentoring, and employment

## Vision

Changing Lives. Empowering Women.

## Our Clients Say...

"I really enjoyed the enthusiasm showed by all the volunteers, the reassurance to be optimistic about the whole interviewing process. I received WOW service!"

"Suited for Change is a true blessing."

"The staff is ore than helpful—they are invested in me."

"I felt welcomed from the time I entered the office and my stylist was very helpful."



*Dear Friends,*

2017 has brought tremendous new energy and excitement to Suited for Change! Our dynamic new Executive Director, Kate Dean, along with our Board Members and robust network of friends old and new, are dedicated to ensuring Suited for Change achieves our vision of empowering women, changing lives, and helping to alleviate poverty. Best of all, this year we celebrate Suited for Change's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

As we work daily to empower women and help them achieve financial independence, we rely on your financial contributions. Your donations allow us to: maintain our one of a kind clothing boutique where, this year alone, 1,250 Washington area women will find clothing, accessories, and confidence for job interviews; support our new evening and weekend suiting hours. We have added more than 40 appointment hours each month; ensure our boutique always has beautiful apparel for every woman, no matter her size; provide ongoing job readiness workshops for 300 local women, now conducted on-site with our community partners; recruit, train, and support more than 100 dedicated volunteers.

Over the last 25 years, we have helped over 24,500 women change their lives and we look forward to serving thousands more with your support!

Warmly,

Terése Whitehead  
President, Board of Directors

## *Empowering Future Engineers*

Late on a Friday afternoon in March, Yvette Butler, Director of GapBuster's Learning Center, called Suited for Change, searching for suits for ten low-income high schoolers scheduled to attend the National Society of Black Engineers Competition.

Thanks to a dedicated and flexible group of volunteer suiters, as well as Dr. Butler, Suited for Change hosted a special after-hours suiting. Each young woman walked away confident and prepared for their competition.

"I can't wait for my mom to see me in this outfit. She might cry," Nefertati smiled. The GapBuster's team, clad in Suited for Change outfits, placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation at the National Society of Black Engineers Competition.



## *Meet Our Supporters: Mount Ennon Church*

A friend for over seven years, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, hosts an annual clothing drive for Suited for Change. This January, they filled two buses full of clothing donations and dropped it off at our offices, where they spent the better part of the morning unloading the items, despite the subzero temperatures.

Suited has hundreds of friends across the DC region, and your financial support and clothing donations are changing lives!



## *Linda's Story: "Suited was Instrumental in My Healing:*

Linda first came to Suited for Change while recovering from a severe brain stem stroke. Suited helped bolster her morale and polish her professionalism. Linda was soon employed, able to keep her home, raise her four children, and eventually go back to school.

Six years later, Linda returned to Suited for Change. She had quit her job to support her mother during an illness. Once her mother entered hospice care, Linda began planning for her future and returned to Suited for Change.

"Reentering the workforce is so hard," she said.

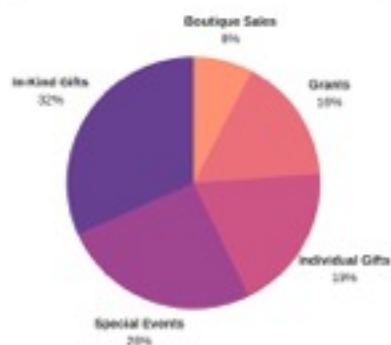
"My journey has been challenging, but I will always remember the help and encouragement that Suited for Change has given me."



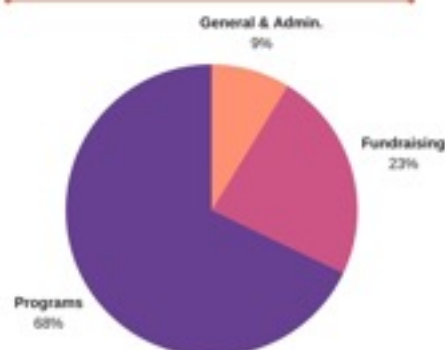
## *Suited by the Numbers*

With your help, Suited for Change serves more than 1,200 women each year.

### 2016 Income



### 2016 Expenses



### Staff

Kate Dean, Executive Director

Ilana Falick, Communications & Development Director

### Board of Directors

Terese Whitehead, President

Jamshed Mulla, Vice President

Suellen Lazarus, Treasurer

Lisanne Crowley, Esq.

Patrick Flaherty, Esq.

Antoinette Judy

Sandra Levy

Channing Martin

Teresa Payne-Nunn

Beth Pershing

Tiffany Stamps

Ivana Willis

### 25th Anniversary Gala

On the evening of May 11, 2017, Suited for Change celebrated 25 years of empowering women. Held at the Arts Club of Washington, the event featured a silent auction, fashion show, and live music.

