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Summer 2020 Newsletter



Summer Fashion Tip: Revisit Tie-Dye

One of the biggest fashion trends of the 70s—tie-dye—is making a colorful resurgence. Here are some fun ways to incorporate tie-dye clothing and accessories into your wardrobe:

— **Reuse items from your current closet.** You know that lace blouse you own that has yellowed over time? Rather than get rid of it, tie it up and dye it with one or more bright shades for a fun way to dress up denim. How about that old blue sweatshirt with an unsightly bleach stain on it? Tie it up and dip it into bleach to transform the stain into a spiral design!

— **Think outside the box when shopping consignment.** Next time you're at a consignment or thrift store, take a look around. Shirts, scarves, even shoes can all be tie-dyed. The possibilities are endless!

— **Explore tutorials and kits.** YouTube videos offer easy tutorials on how to tie-dye clothing while many retail and craft stores sell complete tie-dye kits that include dye, rubber bands and design instructions.

When it comes to tie-dye, you can be subtle or bold. Just experiment with colors that make you happy. Your wardrobe will get a fun pick-me-up and you'll feel good knowing you breathed new life into an old item.



The Start of a New Journey: Stephanie's Story

Wings is proud to share with you the next installment in our client success story series:

At Wings, we are honored to be part of a woman's journey to success. During the COVID-19 shutdown, we provided emergency clothing bags for pickup to be able to continue meeting the needs of women in our community. When our client, Stephanie*, picked up her bag, she was overwhelmed not only by the items inside, but by the support and generosity she received.

Stephanie's words demonstrate the lasting impact that our services have on the lives of the women we serve.

"It took me quite a while to find the right words to explain just how much of an impact Wings for Success made for me. When I picked up the clothes, I was not prepared for the extent of generosity, true-from-the-heart type of care for a complete stranger and giving me the nicest gift I have ever received. I sobbed after looking in the bag and cried for quite a while because you have been the only person and resource to help me in months, but you did more than that.

You went beyond my dreams with everything you gave me. I wear everything, it all fits and I love it all! I was in a very aggressive, abusive relationship. He had taken everything I had money-wise, then burned and destroyed all of my belongings and possessions. You gave me hope that someone cares. Wings for Success is the start of my motivation to 'fly' and achieve great things."

*Name changed for privacy purposes



Volunteer Highlight: Wine with Wings Committee

Despite the challenges of having to transition our annual Wine with Wings fundraiser from an in-person wine tasting experience to an at-home virtual event, the incredible team of staff and volunteers on our Wine with Wings Committee made this year's event the most successful one to date. From securing sponsorships to delivering wine packages and silent auction items to gathering family and friends to support our event, our committee members worked together to create an inspirational evening, showing our community the impact we have on the lives of the women we serve. Thank you to our Wine with Wings Committee for your dedication to our mission and commitment to the women we serve.



Referral Partner Highlight: La Comunidad Hispana

To continue equipping women with the essential skills they need to prepare for job interviews and the workplace, we have begun conducting our workshops on employment-related topics virtually. Since making this transition, we have provided workshops for the Kennett High School group *Las Hermanitas* as well as for La Comunidad Hispana (LCH) Escalera Program.

Lorena Baeza-Lara, Program Instructor for the LCH Escalera Program, is also a volunteer stylist with Wings! The LCH Escalera Program is a college and career-readiness program for high school juniors and seniors in the Avon Grove School District. Connected to the UnidosUS's Escalera: Taking Steps to Success national program, LCH is working with students to promote economic advancement as they explore different career paths and prepare for college.

Our virtual workshops at Wings focus on topics such as preparing for a job interview, wearing the right clothing into the workplace and maintaining a professional attitude. Participants have been engaged throughout our workshops, responding to our questions and reaching out for further advice as we anticipate businesses hiring again when they reopen. Thank you to both Kennett High School and LCH for the opportunity to collaborate with you on this excellent program!



New Beginnings for Diane Mills

After 13 years as the Program Manager for our Frazer office, Diane Mills made the decision in May to retire. Diane was hired just before Wings moved from West Chester to Frazer 12 years ago and helped build our program to what it is today. A committed leader, Diane brought stability to our services in the community and served as the smiling face of our organization to many who walked through our front doors. Although we are sad not to see her every day, we know Diane will always be a member of our Wings family.

If you would like to share your memories of Diane, former Wings board member Carol Larkin is assembling a scrapbook to give Diane as a gift. If you have an anecdote, client story, photo or personal note to share, please email: larkin_carol@yahoo.com or mail items to: Wings for Success, ATTN: Carol Larkin, P.O. Box 1184, Frazer, PA 19355.



Introducing our Interim Program Manager for Frazer

With Diane Mills stepping down as Program Manager, we are very pleased to introduce Martina Bersak as the Interim Program Manager for our Frazer office. Martina joined our Wings family in 2018 as a Donation Day volunteer and a member of the Workshop Committee. She has 20 years of corporate experience managing large international projects for multiple global research organizations in the US and Europe.

"I am grateful to be part of this amazing group of volunteers that we have here at Wings, first as a volunteer and now as the Interim Program Manager in Frazer," notes Martina. "A huge thank you to all of you for generously sharing your time and talents with other women to help them build their dreams."

Martina's role at Wings includes scheduling dressing appointments, recruiting and communicating with volunteers and ensuring strong community partnerships and client outreach.

"We are very fortunate to have someone who is already connected with our volunteers and believes strongly in our mission," says Wings Executive Director Jill Laufenberg. "Martina also brings with her the ability to work remotely after years spent in international business, which will be very helpful during this transition."

Want to introduce yourself to Martina? Email her at: Frazer@wingsforsuccess.org.

Wine with Wings Went Virtual, Setting New Record

Our fourth annual Wine with Wings fundraiser went virtual this year—a first for us! While we were disappointed to not be able to celebrate together in person, we were thrilled by the outpouring of support and generosity from the community. Guests joined us from near and far, all from the comforts of home, as Gunnar Mossblad, a local Grammy-nominated jazz musician, kicked off our live stream event with some beautiful tunes. The evening's program highlighted some of the inspiring women we have served, including a moving testimonial from Cheryl, a Wings client who found herself unexpectedly needing our services during a time of transition in her life.

Our most successful Wine with Wings to date, this event raised over \$40,000 to empower women in our community by equipping them with clothing essentials and job readiness advice.

We want to extend a special thank you to the following groups and individuals who made the evening possible:

Harvest Ridge Winery: Kristi and Erin from Harvest Ridge Winery joined us remotely from their tasting room in Toughkenamon, PA, to share some wine and food pairings. Harvest Ridge Winery is continuing to offer a special promotion. Now through July 7th, they will donate 10% of all wine purchases back to Wings for Success! Be sure to mention Wings for Success when ordering by phone: 484-915-2190 or through their website: <https://shop.harvestridgewinery.com/>.

Our volunteers. Kelly Quant, Wings Kennett Square Program Manager, took a moment to recognize our amazing volunteers. From packing bags of emergency clothing for our clients working on the front lines to facilitating virtual workshops to providing one-on-one advice, our volunteers have allowed us to continue providing our services during these uncertain times.

Sponsors, donors and guests. Thank you to all of our sponsors, the local businesses that donated auction items and all who participated in our online auction and live stream event. Your generosity has made it possible for us to continue our mission...to empower women in need to pursue employment and economic security through apparel, advice and advocacy.

If you were unable to join our live stream event, [click here](#) to view a recording.



Don't Let Wings and Wheels Pass You By! Mark Your Calendar!

DATE: Friday, October 9th

Our biggest fundraising event of the year will be here on October 9th and Wings has already started planning a fun—and safe—experience for our supporters.

We are closely following the safety guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and have multiple plans in place, depending on which stage our county is in when fall comes around. Guidelines permitting, we plan to hold the event at Vanguard ID Systems and the American Helicopter Museum in West Chester, starting with a VIP hour at 5 PM. We will keep you posted if we need to make any safety adjustments, such as limiting the number of attendees.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Friday, October 9th. The money raised during Wings and Wheels helps women who are unemployed, underemployed, or looking to advance in their career. For more details about the event, including sponsorship information, click on the button below.

GET MORE INFO

COVID-19 Safety Procedures at Wings

Our offices are now open with safety precautions in place! To promote a safe environment and minimize the risk of infection for our clients, volunteers and staff, we have instituted numerous safety procedures for both of our locations.

All who come to Wings must:

- Wear a face covering.
- Sanitize their hands upon entering the building.

Dressing appointments have been modified so that:

- Only one client is scheduled at a time.
- No physical contact is made between individuals.
- No children are permitted.
- Dressing rooms are sanitized with UV lighting after each client leaves. (Wings volunteers must be authorized to operate the UV lights).

If you are interested in seeing a full list of our updated procedures, please email any Wings staff member and they will be happy to send you that document.

Since Wings for Success is considered an essential service in the county, Wings volunteers are eligible for a **free COVID-19 antibody test**. No doctor's note is needed and you can select the time and location of your test. Wings Executive Director, Jill Laufenberg, scheduled her antibody test in the morning and had her test results by the evening! For more information on COVID-19 antibody testing, [click here](#).

Top 3 Ways to Support Wings

Wings for Success is able to assist women in need thanks to people like you who care about our mission and want to make a difference. Looking to better the lives of women and their families? Below are the top 3 ways you can support Wings:



Save the date

Make plans to attend Wings and Wheels, our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's event has been scheduled for Friday, October 9th. Stay posted for updates.

LEARN MORE



Support current clothing needs

We depend on the generosity of the community to help keep our closets full and welcome donations that meet our current clothing needs.

CURRENT NEEDS



Donate funds

Make your tax-deductible donation to Wings today. Wings uses all monetary donations very cost-effectively. A modest donation can go a long way toward outfitting a woman with confidence!

DONATE

"You are all amazing...put together an awesome outfit in no time! Literally don't know what I would have done without your help. Thank you for all you do!"

— S.B., Wings for Success client



To empower women in need to pursue employment and economic security through apparel, advice, and advocacy.



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