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## **Dress for Success Announces Grand Opening of New Branch Hosted by Project Runway Season 6 winner Irina Shabayeva**

(Philadelphia, Sept 10.) — Dress for Success, an organization focused on empowering working women, is celebrating the grand opening of a new Philadelphia-based office at 1605 Olney Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 1-5 p.m. with a makeover “runway” show hosted by Project Runway Season 6 winner Irina Shabayeva and attended by Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney.

The Grand Opening celebration will include gift card giveaways (with a grand prize of \$500 Ann Taylor gift card), free food, music, face painting, and the opening ceremony at 3 p.m. Irina Shabayeva will make over five lucky women chosen at random from an applicant pool of deserving nominees for the runway fashion show.

Irina Shabayeva, whose grandmother lives near the new Dress For Success Branch, found major success in the fashion industry following her appearance on Project Runway. She is well known for her couture collections, tailoring, and has dressed celebrities such as Selena Gomez and Carrie Underwood. In recent days Shabayeva has a new focus: charity. She’s dedicated to numerous charities and has launched a few benefits to aid in the fight against child trafficking as well as cancer. Shabayeva said she feels “blessed” and “privileged” in the success, she has found but said, “There is no client I would rather work with than a Dress for Success client. I was once in a tough spot as a working mom myself, and it was beautiful and important organizations like Dress for Success who lifted me up and supported me so I could be my best self.”

Shandeeyaky (Ky) Shabazz, the previous manager of the New York branch, will return to her Philadelphia roots to head the new office on Olney Avenue. Born in Philadelphia, Shabazz said she is, “thrilled to be back and to be helping all Philadelphia women achieve their professional goals and dreams. This is an organization that changes women’s lives for the better. I’m so honored to be entrusted with this location.”

The newly renovated office building includes space for staff and volunteers, two large meeting spaces for programs and events, numerous workspaces for individual and/or small meetings and consultations. It is also stocked with new computers, printers, and office supplies donated by Dress for Success’ generous sponsors Capital One and FedEx, as well as a spacious babysitting room and fenced-in outdoor play area.

To be chosen as one of the five lucky makeovers, please nominate a deserving woman or submit your name and story to [DressforSuccessPhilly.com/makeovercontest](http://DressforSuccessPhilly.com/makeovercontest). Finalists will be chosen based at random. For more information contact Michelle Kendig at #443-879-899.

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**Dress for Success** is an international organization whose mission is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help them thrive in work and in life.