**CHARITY EVENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**PAT SIMMONS**

**REVISED**

Hello everyone!!! Welcome to “An Evening at Tiffany’s”. It’s especially heartwarming to be here, given that we weren’t able to gather last year. It’s so good to see and be with all of you and to continue the vital work we do for the people in our communities that really rely on our enthusiasm and support of Dress For Success Tulsa. This year’s event is devoted to “living the dream....” Tonight, we transport ourselves to Tiffany’s.... as if one evening would ever be enough to imagine ourselves at **that** landmark.... to dress up and evoke the wild, fashionable, and elegant life of one of American cinema’s earliest “**IT GIRLS**,” Holly Golightly. Audrey Hepburn dazzled and inspired us with her portrayal of that unforgettable character, and, sure enough, here we are, invoking that spirit, taking her cue and, in turn, shining our own lights on one another.... Holly... and Audrey would both be so proud!!! **TALK ABOUT “DRESS FOR SUCCESS**!!” This event embodies that phrase!! (**Wait for the laugh).**

It’s wonderful to be here, in this beautiful venue, the Patriot Golf Club, clearly a place worthy of Holly Golightly.... **AND** Audrey Hepburn’s own dreams, adventures and antics.... and for ours tonight as well! I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank our corporate sponsors, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. To my co-chairs, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and to all of the dedicated volunteers and team that worked so diligently and resourcefully to make our dream of this “Evening at Tiffany’s” such a magical reality, thank you!!! We really could not have done this without you.... **YOU** are all true **GEMS**!!

Of course it’s always fun to dress up, but it’s even more rewarding, enriching, and soul-satisfying to **DO GOOD**.... and that’s the main reason we are all here. This organization’s mission has always been to empower those we serve.... to provide resources, training, and guidance to get on track to achieve personal and professional self confidence and success. We can only reach our goals because of **YOU**.... your generosity and enthusiasm really spark our energy. Your support makes things happen... in the best way possible. This is our fourth Purse Event for the benefit of our clients at Dress for Success Tulsa, and boy, do we have an evening planned for you!!! Tonight, there are **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY** gorgeous handbags up for bid in the silent auction and another twenty spectacular pieces eager to find new homes in the live auction.... that means there’s just about enough for each one of you to get “lucky” as you place your bids.... don’t hold back!!

It’s wonderful to be here with all of you.... it’s lovely to aspire to be Holly.... and Audrey, even for a moment.... it’s super to imagine going home, a winner of a gorgeous handbag, but most importantly, and we all know this, is that while we have **THIS MUCH** fun.... playing dress up, dining on a delicious meal, and getting to admire each other’s sparkle, the **REAL** gift is the work we do and the people we support through fund raising and events like this one. We dream so our clients can **live their new REALITY**... one which involves being able to find the confidence and comfort to go back out in the world, looking professional and polished, while pursuing opportunities that before might have seemed impossible. It’s a simple formula.... we have fun socializing... convening... shopping... dressing up.... all with a purpose.... it is a magnificent **WIN WIN** for all!!

In the words of the immortal anthem of Breakfast at Tiffany’s, “Moon River,” “You dream maker...... I’m crossing you in style some day...” that day cannot come soon enough for the clients that benefit from our generosity. All they want, and all we want for them, is to have the chance to make their mark.... to find their individual path to self sufficiency.... to be able to take care of themselves and their families. Every day, I count my blessings, not only for the gifts I have been given in life, but for those I am blessed to give away. I am blessed to have friends, partners, and kindred spirits like each one of you, who realize that we cannot survive and prevail unless our community can do the same, and that goes for everyone. We rise by lifting others.

Audrey Hepburn devoted her life to serving others. She did incredible humanitarian work throughout the world. Tonight is our turn to be inspired by her beauty, elegance, and selfless generosity. We take a chance to **GIVE** a chance.

One of Audrey Hepburn’s most famous quotes has to do with the word “impossible.” What she reminds us is the very word inspires hope and action... after all, it clearly states, **I’m POSSIBLE!**!! It is within our power to give our clients possibility. Please be generous and thoughtful and **GO FOR IT.**.. for you and for our beneficiaries at Dress for Success Tulsa!!! Your thoughtfulness will have an impact greater than you... or Holly, could ever have imagined..... Good luck!! Thank you all!!