

WHO'S THE BOSS?

*ARMED WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL SAVVY,
THESE SIX PHILADELPHIA WOMEN ARE REDEFINING SUCCESS
BY TAKING OTHERS ALONG FOR THE RIDE.*

by KRISTIN DETTERLINE photography by PHIL KRAMER

Women's rights are front and center in the news in 2017. But in the City of Brotherly Love, we've always known that the future is female. The six professionals featured in our annual Women of Influence edition have paved their own paths to power with a shared mission in mind: Give back on the road to the top. Here, from inside the historic Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia, we present Philly's most of-the-moment female leaders.

—TEEN SPIRIT—

Author, stylist, and personal-growth consultant **Cheryl Ann Wadlington** shares her inspiration for *Evoluer House*.

First job: “I was a cashier at KFC.”

On my nightstand: “The Bible.”

What empowerment means:

“A process through which people envision and create what they really want in life and in their community.”

Greatest accomplishment:

“Helping disadvantaged girls of color in Philly from ages 13 to 18 become college-bound and career-ready through *Evoluer House*. This breaks the cycle of high intergenerational poverty in Philly. These girls are often overlooked and frowned upon by society. They are suspended from school at disproportionate rates and become more susceptible to falling behind.”

Role models: “My late parents and brother remain my inspiration. They instilled in me the belief that I don’t have to be like everybody else—to be myself—which has served as my foundation. This helped launch my career in fashion as a journalist and image consultant and instilled in me values that charted my life and defined success for me. They also underscored my responsibility to help others.”

From Pennsylvania to

Pennsylvania Avenue: “I was one of 10 women in the nation selected as a Champion of Change and invited to speak at the White House. It was a magical moment. It also allowed me to shine a global spotlight on the obstacles girls of color face in school and why our work is more vital than ever.”

Advice to young women: “If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can’t hear them anymore.”

What’s next: “Workshops on STEM and the scholarship process. My book *The DivaGirl’s Guide to Style and Self-Respect* will be re-released.”

Me in three words: “Resilient. Humble. Leader.”

Get social: @IAmMissCheryl



Sterling silver earrings (\$2,800) and sterling silver 10-row flex with 0.63 carat diamond bracelet (\$4,490).

David Yurman. *Bernie Robbins Jewelers*, 775 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova, 610-971-2446; bernierobbins.com. Sterling silver 10-row flex with 0.63 carat diamond bracelet (\$4,490). **Bernie Robbins Jewelers.** SEE ABOVE. 18k gold pyramid bracelet, **Lagos** (\$750). 1735 Walnut St., 215-567-0770; lagos.com. Shirt, Wadlington’s own

Styling by Casey Trudeau
Hair by Daniel Citro
Makeup by Susan Sorrell
Hair and makeup provided by Richel D’Ambra Spa & Salon, located in The Ritz-Carlton
For Jacqueline London:
Makeup by Robin Lynette, [iRobincredible](http://iRobincredible.com)
For Cheryl Ann Wadlington:
Makeup by Anthony Jones, *Evoluer Image Consultants*