

T.J. Maxx Donates \$1 Million to Jackets for Jobs, Inc. to Help Stimulate Job Growth in Detroit



Jerome Small, VP/Director of Community Relations, TJX; Alison Vaughn, Founder/CEO, Jackets for Jobs, Inc.; Rhea McCauley, niece of Rosa Parks; Motown Recording Artist KEM; Betty Henderson, General Manager, Jackets for Jobs, Inc.



Leonard Graham, District Manager, T.J. Maxx; Karen Hume, District Manager, T.J. Maxx; Christy Strickland, Manager, TJX Foundation; Alison Vaughn, Founder/CEO, Jackets for Jobs, Inc.; Betty Henderson, General Manager, Jackets for Jobs, Inc.; Lucuis Vassar, Director, Detroit Workforce Development Dept; Nellie Jenkins Kendrick, Deputy Director, Detroit Workforce Development Dept.; Jerome Smalls, VP/Director of Community Relations, TJX; Denise Adams, Regional VP, TJ Maxx

Detroit, MI (BlackNews.com) - Jackets for Jobs, Inc. (JFJ), a Detroit-based nonprofit organization founded by Alison Vaughn in 2000, recently received \$1 million from T.J. Maxx, the nation's leading off-price retailer with 850 stores nationwide. The donation is not only an investment in JFJ's program to clothe Detroit's unemployed citizens who are seeking jobs, but also funding for an "extreme makeover" to its downtown Detroit location, 455 W. Fort Street.

JFJ and T.J. Maxx celebrated the partnership last week with guests that included Motown recording artist KEM and LaShell Griffin (Oprah's Pop Star winner) at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Fort Street location. Rosa Park's niece, Rhea McCauley, was also in attendance and is credited for introducing T.J. Maxx to JFJ. T.J. Maxx will replenish clothes several times a year to ensure that clothing needs are met from season to season.

"The city of Detroit is among the highest in unemployment, high school drop-out, and foreclosures rates in America," states Alison Vaughn, Founder/CEO of Jackets for Jobs, Inc. "The funding and support that we have received from T.J. Maxx and the City of Detroit's Workforce Development Department will really help our program service many in need." Detroit's Workforce Development, a Michigan Works! Agency -- in partnership with businesses, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies -- promotes economic self-sufficiency and provides qualified workers to local employers.

"T.J. Maxx is so excited to have the opportunity to partner with Jackets for Jobs in their quest to provide local men and women with the confidence and skills they need to re-enter the job market," said Jerome Smalls, VP /Director of Community Relations for T.J. Maxx. "We feel this

program is so important to the Detroit community and we are honored to be able to help in a small way through providing clothing for these individuals."

T.J. Maxx's parent company, TJX, has been a trailblazer and leader in the national Welfare-to-Work program. For more information about T.J. Maxx, call 1-800-2TJ-MAXX or visit www.tjmaxx.com

Jackets for Jobs, Inc.(TM) is a 501© non-profit organization that provides career skills training, employment etiquette and professional clothes to individuals seeking employment. Since its inception, JFJ has assisted over 7,000 individuals with employment. Nationally, the organization has been supported and applauded by Donald Trump, The cast from The Apprentice, ABC's The View, NBC's Today Show and they have had the distinct honor of ringing the closing bell on NASDAQ in New York City. For more information, visit www.jacketsforjobs.org

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