

J. Jill Announces Top Ten Semifinalists for 'Nature of Compassion' -- Tee Shirt Design Contest Helps Women in Need

QUINCY, Mass., July 12 /PRNewswire/ -- J. Jill, the multi-channel specialty retailer of women's apparel, today announced its ten semifinalists for the "Nature of Compassion" tee shirt design contest to support the J. Jill Compassion Fund. Starting today, the public can vote for their favorite tee shirt design in J. Jill stores or online at <http://jjill.com> through July 31.

J. Jill received more than 2,000 tee shirt designs from across the country. The top ten designs will grace the windows of J. Jill's more than 200 stores nationwide through the end of July.

"J. Jill was thrilled to have received so many wonderful entries in the '**Nature of Compassion**' contest," says Lisa Bayne, Chief Marketing Officer at J. Jill. "It was a great privilege for us to judge such incredible artwork for a worthy cause. We hope our customers enjoy viewing the designs of these talented women and voting to select a winning design."

J. Jill will announce the winning "**Nature of Compassion**" design in November 2006 and feature it in a limited edition tee shirt that will be available in J. Jill stores, catalog and Internet site beginning in November. The company will donate 100 percent of the profits to the J. Jill **Compassion** Fund, which supports community-based organizations that help poor and homeless women become self-sufficient. J. Jill currently sells a satin trimmed **Compassion** Tee, which is available for purchase year-round, with \$1 from each sale donated to the J. Jill **Compassion** Fund.

The winning designer will receive an artistic getaway for herself and a friend to Artista Creative Safaris for Women in Carmel-By-The-Sea, California. She will also receive a J. Jill shopping spree and her design will be sold in all J. Jill stores, catalogs and online at <http://www.jjill.com>.

The top ten finalists of the "**Nature of Compassion**" contest will also receive a J. Jill shopping spree. J. Jill's "**Nature of Compassion**" Semifinalists are:

Whitney Ash - Miami, Florida
Marklyn P. Champagne - East Greenwich, Rhode Island
Kristine Cobb - Sutton, Massachusetts
Karen Eide - Carrollton, Virginia
Jennifer Fairman - Baltimore, Maryland
Jill Kinney-Andre - Menlo Park, California
Lisa L. Livingstone - Modesto, California
Rebecca Mueller - Bettendorf, Iowa
Marrielin Ofstad - Lakeville, Minnesota
Debbie Ungar - Zionsville, Indiana

For official **contest** rules or to find a J. Jill store near you, visit <http://www.jjill.com>.

About The J. Jill **Compassion** Fund

The J. Jill **Compassion** Fund, a donor-advised fund at the Boston Foundation, is committed to providing support to community-based organizations that help poor and homeless women become self-sufficient. J. Jill **Compassion** Fund grants have supported more than 20 organizations that help women to empower themselves and change their lives. The J. Jill **Compassion** Fund was established in June 2002 and since its inception, J. Jill has donated more than \$1.2 million to the Fund and recommended more than \$700,000 in grants.

About The J. Jill Group, Inc.

The J. Jill Group is a multi-channel specialty retailer of women's apparel, including accessories and footwear. The company currently offers its merchandise through its retail stores, catalogs and website <http://jjill.com>. J. Jill is designed to appeal to active women age 35 and older.