



Media Release

Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jacob's Ladder Earns \$50,000 Levine Grant

Grant will help Jacob's Ladder meet dramatic increase in demand, prepare hardest-to-employ for success in the workforce.

CHARLOTTE, NC -- May 8, 2009

The Leon Levine Foundation has awarded Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc. a \$50,000 grant to meet urgent needs created by rising unemployment in the Charlotte Mecklenburg community.

Jacob's Ladder, an independent 501(c)3 organization, was created to provide job readiness skills to Charlotte's urban poor. "We are grateful for the timely support of the Levine Foundation," said Steffi Travis, Executive Director of Jacob's Ladder. "We have seen a three-fold increase in the number of people seeking our services so far in 2009, and we are in urgent need of expanded resources to serve those clients."

"Our mission is to help the unemployed and underemployed find and keep living wage jobs," says Travis. "Our clients have multiple barriers to employment—including little to no work history—and come to us in genuine need of help. As unemployment rises, it is harder and harder for this demographic to break the cycle of poverty and find meaningful employment."

The gift continues the Foundation's recent focus on critical needs arising from the current economic downturn. "We are very excited to partner with such a strong organization with a proven history of serving those in need," said Tom Lawrence, the Foundation's Vice President.

The Foundation, created by Leon Levine and his wife, Sandra, has a strong philanthropic history – including the Levine Museum of the New South, Levine Children's Hospital and a host of other cultural, healthcare, community agencies. Leon Levine is the founder and chairman emeritus of Family Dollar Stores Inc., a Matthews-based discount retail chain with more than 5,000 stores in 43 states.

For more information about Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc. and their job readiness program, visit <http://www.jacobsladdercharlotte.org> or call 704-332-5822.

About Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc.

The mission of Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc. is to help unemployed and underemployed people find and keep living wage jobs. Since 1998, Jacob's Ladder has helped more than 4,000 individuals make positive changes in their lives. Clients go through a four-step process to achieve basic job readiness. Volunteers coach them as they look for work and continue to support them after they obtain jobs. Jacob's Ladder is an independent non-profit agency funded by individual, faith-based, corporate, and foundation donors.

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