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Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores to Increase Work Force by More Than 15% for Holidays

Retailer creates 1,700+ jobs in 2011; will hire additional 3,000+ seasonal employees

HUDSON, OHIO (October 10, 2011) – As the U.S. Department of Labor reports a national unemployment rate of 9.1%, Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores, the leading fabric and craft specialty retailer in America, has announced it will increase its work force by more than 15% for the holiday season.

Tom Williams, senior vice president of human resources for Jo-Ann, announced the company has begun the seasonal recruiting process and will hire more than 3,000 additional employees before the holidays. "We are pleased to be in a position to hire these additional team members. For Jo-Ann customers it means we will continue to deliver the excellent customer service they have come to expect – even through the busy holiday season," Williams said. "For our new team members it means we can provide the employment opportunity they had not been able to find previously."

The company attributes the seasonal hiring to anticipation of increased traffic in stores through the holiday season. Travis Smith, chief executive officer of Jo-Ann, anticipates the growth of handcrafted gift giving – including the food crafting trend - will impact the stores once again this holiday season.

"In addition to seasonal hiring, Jo-Ann has created more than 1,500 jobs this year to staff the 50 new stores that have opened to date, with another 9 stores planned to open by year's end," Williams elaborated.

About Jo-Ann Stores, Inc.

Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores, the nation's largest fabric and craft retailer with locations in 49 states, was founded in 1943 as a single retail store. Today, more than 750 Jo-Ann stores across the country provide consumers with creative inspiration. For additional information, visit www.joann.com.

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