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## **26,000 DPS Elementary School Children Get a Hand in Fighting Winter Cold from Mittens for Detroit and FCA US**

### *Mitten Drop Aims to Keep Children Safe and Warm*

December 9, 2015, Detroit - With temperatures continuing to drop, exposure to the cold can cause serious or life-threatening health problems for young children — many of whom must walk several blocks to school.

In an effort to help children stay safe and warm this winter, Mittens for Detroit (MFD), a charity that's known for *warming hearts, two hands at a time*, and automaker FCA US LLC will kick off a "mitten drop" December 9 at Dossin Elementary-Middle School. Ultimately, the partnership will provide a new pair of mittens or gloves to more than 26,000 Detroit Public School elementary students.

"From our heads and hearts to our hands, FCA US employees are driven to serve as pillars of our communities," Brian Harlow, Vice President – Manufacturing, FCA US LLC, said. "The generosity of our employees runs deep and through our continued partnership with Mittens for Detroit, we are committed to providing not only warmth, but dignity and respect for those needing a hand up, especially children."

FCA US employees donated a record 45,000 pairs of mittens and gloves, giving MFD a huge hand toward its goal of collecting 57,000 pairs of mittens and gloves this season. For the second consecutive year, FCA US is the largest private collection partner, collecting at 13 manufacturing plants across Metro Detroit and its world headquarters and technology center in Auburn Hills.

"We are extremely grateful for our community partnerships such as FCA and Mittens for Detroit. Our students deserve the best education possible and when their broader needs are met we are able to focus on the important work of academics," said Carol Weaver, Deputy Executive Director of Development and Community Outreach.

Now in its sixth year, MFD distributes new mittens and gloves to children and adults in need through partner agencies, schools, organizations and charities located in Detroit, as well as students in Highland Park and Hamtramck Public Schools.

"Appropriate winter apparel is essential to school success. In fact, it's very common for teachers to report that after students receive their new mittens and gloves, they are more focused in class, better able to write, hold books, and of course, play in the snow," Wendy Shepherd, Executive Director, Mittens for Detroit, said. "It's an honor to be able to work with FCA US and DPS to help children stay safe and warm while they learn and play."

Founded in November 2010 by actress Erin Cummings (*Spartacus: Blood & Sand*, *Mad Men*, *Masters of Sex*, ABC series *Astronaut Wives Club*), the inspiration for MFD came from Cummings's cousin, Kathi Moss, who graciously gave a Halloween trick-or-treater a pair of gloves. Struck by the simplicity and generosity of her cousin's actions, Cummings founded MFD. In its first five years, MFD has distributed more than 103,000 new pairs of mittens and gloves.

"Every year, Mittens for Detroit continues to grow and expand, helping many more people in need in Detroit," Erin

Cummings, actress and founder of Mittens for Detroit, said. "I am increasingly amazed and humbled by the support that our efforts have generated, and I'm honored to be able to serve so many because of it."

#### **About Mittens for Detroit**

Mittens for Detroit is a charity whose sole purpose is to collect, purchase, and distribute new, unused mittens and gloves to children and adults in need in Detroit. MFD operates under the fiscal sponsorship of the North Woodward Community Foundation, a publicly supported, non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization (tax ID 38-3390605). For more information about how to get involved, please visit <http://mittensfordetroit.org/> or contact Wendy Shepherd, MFD Executive Director, at [Wendy@MittensForDetroit.org](mailto:Wendy@MittensForDetroit.org) or 586-913-5690.

#### **About Detroit Public Schools**

Detroit Public Schools offers Neighborhood-Centered, Quality Schools at 97 campuses with a mission to provide a comprehensive, well-rounded, engaging learning experience. Educational advantages include Individualized Learning Maps for all students, research-driven pre-kindergarten classes to prepare the District's youngest learners, expanded fine and performing arts, music and sports programs at all grade levels, and 21 Community Schools offering extended services to support families. Ongoing advantages include Parent University at the district's eight Parent Resource Centers, enhanced safety initiatives, and DPS-authorized charter schools led by educators with proven track records of raising achievement. In 2015, DPS graduates earned \$164 million in grants and scholarships. To learn more, visit [detroitk12.org](http://detroitk12.org) or call 313-240-4DPS.

#### **About FCA US LLC**

FCA US LLC is a North American automaker based in Auburn Hills, Michigan. It designs, manufactures, and sells or distributes vehicles under the Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep®, Ram, FIAT and Alfa Romeo brands, as well as the SRT performance designation. The Company also distributes Mopar and Alfa Romeo parts and accessories. FCA US is building upon the historic foundations of Chrysler Corp., established in 1925 by industry visionary Walter P. Chrysler and Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino (F.I.A.T.), founded in Italy in 1899 by pioneering entrepreneurs, including Giovanni Agnelli. FCA US is a member of the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. (FCA) family of companies. (NYSE: FCAU/ MTA: FCA).

FCA is an international automotive group listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "FCAU" and on the Mercato Telematico Azionario under the symbol "FCA."

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