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## **Two Kansas City Fashion Leaders Join Forces to Magnify Impact**

*Essense of Australia Continues Generous Support of Rightfully Sewn's  
Seamstress Training Program*

**Kansas City, Mo.** - Essense of Australia, a leading international bridal design house and wholesaler headquartered in Lenexa, Kansas, has made a donation to Kansas City non-profit Rightfully Sewn in support of their Seamstress Training Program.

"Essense believes in giving back and lifting those up around us, especially in the communities where we live and work," said Martine Harris, Head Designer and Chief Creative Officer of Essense of Australia. "We also believe fashion and design have the power to transform communities and are proud to partner with Rightfully Sewn to help create opportunities as part of the Seamstress Training Program."

Essense of Australia has been a continuing supporter of Rightfully Sewn's mission and programs. As a fashion company in the Kansas City area dedicated to creating jobs and supporting the empowerment and education of those seeking a career in fashion, Essense of Australia aligns in values with Rightfully Sewn, which hosts the Seamstress Training Program to prepare individuals with obstacles to employment for jobs as sewists, alterationists, and production managers.

"We are so grateful for Essense of Australia's multidimensional support," said Jennifer Lapka, founder and president of Rightfully Sewn. "Their international stature and global fashion presence is awe-inspiring."

Essense of Australia has participated in the Seamstress Training Program by attending job fairs hosted at the end of each class and donating dresses for students to practice their alteration skills. Tisha Mitchell, Vice President of Design Operations at Essense of Australia, serves on the Rightfully Sewn board, and the company was the Presenting Sponsor of Rightfully Sewn's 2019 Golden Gala.

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**About Essense of Australia:**

Essense of Australia creates and manufactures award-winning gowns for independent bridal retailers throughout the world under labels Stella York, Essense of Australia, Martina Liana, All Who Wander and the bridesmaid label Sorella Vita. The company's Lenexa, Kansas office serves as the northern hemisphere headquarters and showroom where more than 200 employees from across the Kansas City metro work passionately to give brides everywhere the chance to experience world fashion brought to life through exquisite bridal design. The Essense of Australia family of brands can be found at more than 1,200 retailers worldwide including the US, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and throughout Europe.

**About Rightfully Sewn:**

Rightfully Sewn creates jobs and opportunities in Kansas City through the business of fashion with a seamstress training program, fashion designer professional development program, and small batch production services. The Seamstress Training Program is a ten-week workforce training unit that opens up the possibility of full-time, well-paying jobs for individuals who have obstacles to employment. Rightfully Sewn offers pattern making, sample sewing and cut-and-sew services to emerging and established fashion brands. With more than 20 clients thus far and its own line, Rightfully Sewn has been manufacturing dresses, kimonos, athletic wear and, during the pandemic, more than 40,000 fabric masks for healthcare and non-profit entities in the Kansas City area. Their atelier, located in the Crossroads Arts District, opened in 2018 to provide design space and production equipment for all of its operations. To learn more, visit [www.rightfullysewn.org](http://www.rightfullysewn.org).