

Blog from the Office of the City Manager, Lowell MA

Lowell has its MoJo On!

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The Economic Development office works hard and takes pride in the ability to locate businesses in the City. Every so often a business comes along of which we can take particular pride for both its potential and mission.

MoJo

Moms and Jobs

[MoJo \(Moms and Jobs\)](#) is just such a business. MoJo, a new local manufacturing business, cut the ribbon last Friday morning on an exciting venture to create sustainable employment opportunities and a career path for moms living below the poverty line. The founders, siblings Tom, Darr and Cara Aley laid out their vision for a socially conscious and profitable business that will provide jobs and opportunities to move women beyond the cycle of poverty. The Aley brothers were instrumental in launching Jericho Road, an organization that has assisted hundreds of non-profits in the Lowell, Lawrence and Lynne. The Aleys could see that many of the non-profits they worked with struggled with sustainability. The first seeds of [Mojo](#) were planted out of a mitten drive, when it occurred to Tom that rather than collecting mittens perhaps they should be making mittens. The Aleys hope to address these troubling statistics.

In the US today:

- 39.7% of children are born to unmarried mothers
- 30% of single moms live under the poverty line
- Over 1.5 million children experience homelessness every year
- 1 week of daycare for 2 kids costs more than 1 week minimum wage salary—making it difficult for mothers to afford to return to the workplace

At the Phoenix Ave. location, MoJo will provide higher than minimum wage salaries, daycare free of charge, and a chance at a new career path, and a new start through the manufacture of apparel and other projects. Corporations, schools, universities and individuals can purchase MoJo hand stitched products as logowear.

What better place than Lowell, the heart of the industrial revolution to launch such a venture? The Aleys made the decision to locate MoJo in Lowell for the incredible depth of resources available in the City, as well as for its long history of uniquely productive partnerships. MoJo has partnered with local non-profits CTI and Acre Family Daycare to provide daycare support and a job training program. Since July MoJo has quadrupled its size, already providing jobs for 20 with a goal of 50 by the new year. Please see the MoJo website for more information and for how you can help to support this important venture.