

## Milliken Specialty Interiors Launches Partnership with The Gifted Company to Help Train and Employ Those Experiencing Homelessness

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** - As part of its commitment to global philanthropy and sustainability, leading global innovation company with textile, specialty chemical and floor covering manufacturing expertise, **Milliken & Company's Specialty Interiors business**, is pleased to announce its partnership with The Gifted Company. The Gifted Company is a North Carolina-based subsidiary of a non-profit organization dedicated to training and employing individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty to work in the textile industry in commercial sewing roles. Based in the historical heart of America's textile industry, this organization works to break the cycle of poverty, homeless and hopelessness by working directly with local homeless populations to provide much-needed training, interviewing and business skills. Their efforts allow trainees to transition back into the work world, to support themselves long-term and to regain confidence.

Through the relationship, Milliken Specialty Interiors will donate fabric remnants and overstock items to The Gifted Company for use in their products. From these remnants, The Gifted Company's workers sew and produce apparel, accessories, home décor items and other goods, which are sold at [www.thegiftedco.com](http://www.thegiftedco.com). Proceeds from the sale of these items are used to pay the salaries of workers and to support additional training initiatives, bringing new trainees into the system.

The Gifted Company has helped people from those experiencing homelessness or long-term unemployment to those working to overcome addiction or single mother's working to unify their families rediscover their personal worth through gaining new skills and permanent employment. While their names are different, many of their stories are similar. According to Executive Director Sally Randall, "Our first trainee had been struggling to find work for a long time. A quick learner and an incredibly hard worker, she completed her training with us and was easily placed in a full-time position with a commercial sewing operation, giving her freedom and a sense of purpose, while benefitting our community and the textile industry by filling a position that could have remained vacant."

The effort also aligns well with Milliken's commitment to purposeful and intentional design by working to eliminate waste and excess and supporting the circular economy through the reuse and upcycling of fabric samples that might otherwise have been sent to a landfill.

"We are so pleased to lend our support to an organization right in our own back yard that shares our commitment to social responsibility and protecting our environment," said Milliken Specialty Interiors Vice President Jennifer K. Harmon. "More importantly, our partnership with The Gifted Company allows Milliken Specialty Interiors to work toward rebuilding lives and strengthening the American textile industry, one stitch and one person at a time."

After years of textile jobs going overseas, the industry has begun to rebuild. However, many former workers have either retired or moved on to other careers, leaving a critical need for experience commercial sewing operators. The Gifted Company is helping to fill that training void, playing an important role in the industry's repatriation efforts.

"Milliken is one of the most well-respected American textile manufacturers known for its quality, integrity and generosity," said Sally Randall, executive director, The Gifted Company. "We are so proud to partner with them to change lives and ensure that this industry will continue to thrive here in the Carolinas, by empowering and lending a hand up to those in our community experiencing homelessness and poverty."

For more information about The Gifted Company, please visit [www.thegiftedco.com](http://www.thegiftedco.com).

### **About Milliken's Specialty Interiors Business**

Milliken Specialty Interiors, a business in the Performance & Protective Textiles division, boasts a rich history of developing, designing and manufacturing fabrics for home and office furniture, vertical panels, privacy curtains, window treatments, theatrical curtains, top-of-bed applications and more. Through our unrivaled knowledge and unmatched service, we provide our customers with forward-thinking solutions that enhance their products in a variety of markets, including commercial, residential and healthcare, hospitality. For more information, visit [www.millikenspecialtyinteriors.com](http://www.millikenspecialtyinteriors.com) and join us on [Twitter](#) (@MillikenSpecInt), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@millikenspecialtyinteriors).

### **About Milliken**

Milliken has been solving everyday problems with innovative solutions for more than 150 years. Our research, design and manufacturing expertise reaches across a breadth of disciplines including specialty chemicals, floor covering and performance and protective textiles. An unwavering commitment to ethics guides our work to redefine how we add strength and protection to products, how we infuse vibrancy and color into our surroundings and how we care for the environment. For us, success is when discoveries made within Milliken help us all have more meaningful connections with the world. Discover Milliken at [www.milliken.com](http://www.milliken.com), and join us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

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