



The finale of the Red Dress Collection Fashion Show 2008 at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week with Heart Truth ambassador Mrs. Laura Bush.

First Ladies in red

By Betty O'Neill-Roderick

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When Michele Obama wore a red dress on election night she was following a long tradition of "Ladies in Red." Now as the country gets ready for the Inauguration of our 44th President, the National First Ladies' Library in Canton, Ohio, presents *The Heart Truth's First Ladies Red Dress Collection*.

First Ladies contributed red dresses from their personal wardrobes for this exhibit which raises awareness of health care issues. The Library worked with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to bring this special exhibit to Canton.

The red dress is the national symbol for women and heart disease and thus is the centerpiece of *The Heart Truth*, a national awareness campaign that warns women about their risk of heart disease and inspires them to take action to lower it.

First Lady Laura Bush served as the national ambassador for The Heart Truth campaign and has traveled throughout the country to raise awareness of women's risk for heart disease, which is the leading cause of death for women. Her slender red jacket dress is shown along with Barbara Bush's flowing red dress.

The overall Caring Hearts exhibit focuses on the varied health causes of First Ladies, - Lou Henry Hoover co-founded the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation; Betty Ford's personal struggle with drug and alcohol addiction led her to establish The Betty Ford Center; and Hillary Clinton's mission was to try to develop a national health care system.

The exhibit can be seen on the main floor exhibit hall at the National First Ladies' Library's Education and Research Center at 205 Market Avenue S. in Downtown Canton through May 29, 2009. Tours take place hourly Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for children. For more information call 330-452-0876 or visit www.firstladies.org.

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