

THE RADAR SOCIETY

BY REBECCA HESLIN



WALK THIS WAY Clockwise from left: Jaci Reid hosts a benefit for VH1's Save the Music; Russell Simmons and Reverend Run make the rounds at Super Saturday; The FFP team huddles with hostess Donna Karan at the same event.

CHICK MAGNATE *Power broker Jaci Wilson-Reid opens the door for a few of the city's smartest dressers*

Any social darling worth her fundraising fetes and knock-out Nina Ricci's knows her most important accessory is her Rolodex. "And it's not a shabby Rolodex," laughs Jaci Wilson-Reid, the Washington politico-turned-philanthropist who's been playing fabulous fairy godmother to the DC-based organization Fashion Fights Poverty.

Based around fashion events and sales from its *Dress Responsibly Look Book*, the fledgling group aims to fight global poverty by raising money for fair trade artisans throughout the world. Now in its third year, Fashion Fights Poverty founders Kadrieka Maiden, Michael Dumlao and Sylvie Luanghy are once again taking to the catwalk this month to give DCists an event they'd typically have to head north to view: A stellar fashion show. Enter Wilson-Reid, a front row regular at Bryant Park.

While holidaying in St. Barths, summering in the Hamptons and hosting a benefit for VH1's *Save the Music* each year, Wilson-Reid has picked up a few powerful pals. But the local social, who runs the DC-based public affairs firm Westin Rinehart with her husband Morris, offered up more than her contacts to the trio. "Raising money is of course the key thing," Wilson-Reid says. "But I thought it would be important for me to give them national exposure as well." And give FFP exposure she did.

It all started last fall when Wilson-Reid hosted a swank soiree at Versace's Tysors outpost and invited her fab friends to shop for the cause. She then dialed up Emmitt Smith's wife, Patricia, who hosted similar fundraisers in Versace's Dallas boutique. In August, Wilson-Reid stepped up her publicity efforts a luxe level and the FFP team received an invite to set

up an information booth at the Rolls-Royce of fashion events—Donna Karan's Super Saturday in the Hamptons. Wilson-Reid's pal Russell Simmons, Reverend Run, Kelly Ripa and stylist to the stars Rachel Zoe stopped by the table to hear about the charity's principles. Ripa even said she'd try to make it to the big event. And that was only day one.

The following afternoon, Jaci and Morris beckoned a haute-heeled crowd of power players to their front yard for sushi and champagne. Actress, ethical dresser and GW grad Kerry Washington hosted the fete for guests of the Creative Coalition including singer Deborah Cox, Margaret Carlson and Emmy-winning producer Lawrence O'Donnell Jr. But Wilson-Reid wasn't quite finished flexing her Pilates-toned muscles.

"Donna Karan has agreed to put some of her work in the FFP fashion show this year," she says. Wilson-Reid's reach stretched to Richie Rich and Traver Rains of *Heatherette*, who also signed on to send clothes for the upcoming party and she's asked Beverly Bond to spin as the celebrity DJ.

"I thought it would be good for the FFP gang to have access to these celebs who could wear their clothes or be involved in the shows," Wilson-Reid says. "If Morris and I can put them before the right people, they can take it from there." And with the Reids' help, the FFP team might be able to make it more about what you know than who you know. "Our friends may not jump on board right away," she says. "But they're likely to say, 'Hey, Jaci's adopted these kids, so it's got to be a great cause.'" ■

Fashion Fights Poverty, Oct. 26th, tickets available at fashionfightspoverty.org.

DC

MODERN LUXURY™

ABOUT LAST NIGHT...

SPECIAL NIGHTLIFE ISSUE

H STREET: HIPSTER HAVEN!

**THE CITY'S SLEEKEST,
CHIC-EST LOUNGES**

**CRITICAL MASS: DC'S
MUSIC BIZ EXPLODES**

THE DISH ON CEVICHE!

+ S

FASHION G

BONO'S BOLLYWOOD

LE LOUP

HOMEGIRL TAR

TAKES ON T

MENDES

UP TIL DAWN

VEGAS, BEIJING

WILD AT HEA



ISSN 1048-6486