



January 16, 2018

The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. Enters Into Forbearance Agreements

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 16, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. (OTCQX:BONT) ("the Company"), today announced that it has entered into forbearance agreements (the "Forbearance Agreements") with its ABL Credit Agreement lenders and an ad hoc group of holders of approximately 75% in aggregate principal amount of the Company's 8.0% Second Lien Secured Notes due 2021 (the "2L Notes").

Under the terms of the Forbearance Agreements, the ABL Credit Agreement lenders and the forbearing holders of the 2L Notes have agreed to forbear from exercising any and all remedies available to them as a result of the Company not making the interest payment due on the Notes on December 15, 2017, subject to customary terms and conditions. The Forbearance Agreements will expire on January 26, 2018, unless further extended by the parties. The forbearance period under the ABL forbearance agreement will be automatically extended to February 4, 2018 if the forbearing holders of the 2L Notes agree to extend to such date.

As previously disclosed, the Company is engaged in ongoing discussions with its debt holders in an effort to strengthen its capital structure to support the business.

Additional information on the Forbearance Agreements is contained in a report on Form 8-K, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

About The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc.

The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc., with corporate headquarters in York, Pennsylvania and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, operates 260 stores, which includes nine furniture galleries and four clearance centers, in 24 states in the Northeast, Midwest and upper Great Plains under the Bon-Ton, Bergner's, Boston Store, Carson's, Elder-Beerman, Herberger's and Younkers nameplates. The stores offer a broad assortment of national and private brand fashion apparel and accessories for women, men and children, as well as cosmetics and home furnishings. The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. is an active and positive participant in the communities it serves. For further information, please visit <http://investors.bonton.com>.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain information included in this press release contains statements that are forward-looking within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements, which may be identified by words such as "may," "could," "will," "plan," "expect," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "project," "intend" or other similar expressions and include the Company's fiscal 2017 guidance, involve important risks and uncertainties that could significantly affect results in the future and, accordingly, such results may differ from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Company. Factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to: risks related to retail businesses generally; a significant and prolonged deterioration of general economic conditions which could negatively impact the Company in a number of ways, including the potential write-down of the current valuation of intangible assets and deferred taxes; risks related to the Company's proprietary credit card program; potential increases in pension obligations; consumer spending patterns, debt levels, and the availability and cost of consumer credit; additional competition from existing and new competitors or changes in the competitive environment; inflation; deflation; changes in the costs of fuel and other energy and transportation costs; weather conditions that could negatively impact sales; uncertainties associated with expanding or remodeling existing stores; the ability to attract and retain qualified management; the dependence upon relationships with vendors and their factors; a data security breach or system failure; the ability to reduce or control SG&A expenses, including initiatives to reduce expenses and improve profits; operational disruptions; unsuccessful marketing initiatives; the ability to expand our capacity and improve efficiency through our new eCommerce fulfillment center; changes in, or the failure to successfully implement, our key strategies, including the store rationalization program and initiatives to improve our merchandising, marketing and operations; adverse outcomes in litigation; the incurrence of unplanned capital expenditures; the ability to obtain financing for working capital, capital expenditures and general corporate purposes; the impact of regulatory requirements including the Health Care Reform Act and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; the inability or limitations on the Company's ability to favorably adjust the valuation allowance on deferred tax assets; the ability of the Company to change its capital structure; and the financial condition of mall operators. Any sales results reported herein do not necessarily predict the company's performance for the full 2017 holiday season or for the fiscal fourth quarter as a whole. Additional factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ from those contained in these forward-looking statements are discussed in greater detail under Item 1A of the Company's Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Christine Hojnacki, 414-347-5329

christine.hojnacki@bonton.com

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