



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**THORNTONS INC. NAMES TONY HARRIS
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

Louisville, KY, December 7, 2011 – Thorntons Inc. announces today that Mr. Tony Harris has been named Chief Operating Officer of the Louisville, Kentucky-based convenience store chain. Harris will be responsible for operations, marketing, gasoline pricing, brand management, customer experience and retail strategy.

A Thorntons Inc. veteran of 17 years, Harris, 40, most recently served as Vice President of Operations. He joined Thorntons in 1994 and has held various leadership roles in the Information Technology functional area, including Director of Informational Technology Projects and Vice President of Information Technology & Facility Services.

Matt Thornton, CEO and President, states, "We are excited to appoint Tony as our new COO. His leadership of our retail strategy, which has helped result in Thorntons' unprecedented growth, combined with his inherent business expertise, will continue to ensure the organization is even stronger and more focused as the public's favorite on-the-go shopping destination."

Harris is a 1993 graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, with a degree in Management Information Systems. He is currently attending The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University where he will earn his MBA in 2012.

Thorntons is also pleased to announce the following promotions: John A. Zikias has been named Senior Vice President of Category Management and Supply Chain for both the fuel and merchandise categories. In his new role Zikias will be responsible for category management, merchandise and fuel sales, commissary operations, car wash operations, supply chain/distribution and public relations. Rodney Loyd is now Director of Brand Development & Strategic Initiatives, responsible for consumer communications, brand management and research. Jason Doyle has been promoted to Southern Division Vice President of Operations. Matt Dabulis is the new Northern Division Vice President of Operations. Both Doyle and Dabulis will be responsible for retail operations in their respective regions.

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Founded by Kentucky native James H. Thornton in 1971, Thorntons Inc. is one of the leading independent gasoline and convenience chain retailers in the U.S., currently operating throughout the Midwest under the brand name Thorntons. With over \$1.4 billion in revenue, Thorntons is one of largest privately held corporations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, Thorntons operates 162 gasoline and convenience stores, car washes and travel plazas in five states: Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee. Thorntons distributes its petroleum products through its wholly owned Thornton Transportation Company and operates a river bulk storage terminal in Louisville. For more information visit www.thorntonsinc.com and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc and Twitter at www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc.