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Contact: Kelly Ogburn
Phone: **502-425 8022**
Email: kogburn@thorntonsinc.com

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THORNTONS NAMED TO LIST OF TOP PLACES TO WORK IN KENTUCKIANA

Distinguished for Leadership, Diversity, Compensation, Training, and Workplace Flexibility

Louisville, KY. January 17, 2011. Thorntons Inc. is proud to announce that it was ranked as one of the top workplaces in Louisville for 2010 in a survey conducted by the Louisville *Courier-Journal* newspaper. Thorntons employs 625 people at 44 Kentuckiana store locations, with over 2000 team members companywide throughout Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee.

“It’s a great honor for Thorntons to be named one of the top places to work by such a distinguished and renowned organization as the *Courier-Journal*,” stated Matt Thornton, President & CEO. “We are passionate about our team members, and their work environment, and we have a long-standing history for providing the best of both.” Along with a series of internal awards and acknowledgment programs for its team members, Thorntons is a leader in team member relations, recognition, customer-service training, mentor programs and flex scheduling. “Our team members are dedicated, cheerful, and always available to lend our customers a helping hand. We truly employ the best people who are the best at what they do,” adds Thornton.

The companies included in the ‘Top Places to Work’ were selected based on extensive employee surveys measuring qualities such as company leadership, compensation, training, workplace flexibility, and diversity. The rankings and results were featured in a ‘Top Places to Work’ special section of the *Courier-Journal* on Sunday, January 16, 2011.

One of the most profound initiatives Thorntons has created for its team members is the assistance program ‘Champ Cares Fund’, a charitable fund established for team members to contribute to their co-workers who have been directly impacted by a severe hardship, crisis or a catastrophic incident that was beyond their control. For more information about the Champ Cares Fund please visit <http://www.thorntonsinc.com/Champ-Cares.html>.

“Thorntons is a great place to work, I have been here for 19 years. Our company is one big family; I say “our” because Matt Thornton told us once to treat it as if it’s our company and I really do. Thorntons truly cares about their team members and what is going on in their lives. Thorntons does so much for our community; and it inspires us to do the same in our personal life too. I have never seen a company that cares so much about their customers, never!! I am very proud to be a part of this company” — Stacy Clark, Thorntons Store Support Center

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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 165 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. In 2008 Thorntons ranked number 250 among Forbes magazine’s 500 largest privately held companies. For more information visit www.thorntonsinc.com and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc and Twitter at www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc.