



Media Advisory:

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

**Thorntons Opens Kitchen, Offers Unleaded^{15™} in Blue Island
and Partners with Blue Cap as part of the opening ceremony
*OPENING FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH***

WHAT: Thorntons Inc., is proud to announce the opening of their store located at **127th & Vincennes Road in Blue Island, IL 60406**. To celebrate, there will be an official ribbon cutting and check presentation to the Blue Cap organization. Blue Cap is an organization dedicated to the discovery, pursuit and achievement of personal growth and dignity for individuals of all ages having, or at risk for, developmental disabilities.

WHEN: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Check Presentation will take place at 10 a.m. CT

WHO: Bob Hammond, Thorntons Inc
Mayor Domingo Vargas, Blue Island, IL
Greg Lochow, Blue Island Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Jill A. Hart, Director of Community Relations, Blue Cap

WHERE: Thorntons - 127th & Vincennes Road in Blue Island, IL 60406

MORE: In addition to the ribbon cutting ceremony, guests can enjoy hot breakfast, lunch and snack items that are prepared fresh on-site every single day, in addition to a variety of traditional, delicious roller grill items. For breakfast, guests can pick up hot sandwiches such as a Sausage Egg and Cheese Biscuit, a Ham Egg and Cheese Croissant, or a Bacon Egg and Cheese Burrito, among other great choices. Breakfast is served until 10:30 a.m. Lunch options include: Pepperoni Pizza sticks, Cheeseburgers, Buffalo Ranch Chicken Burrito, and Crispy Chicken Tenders. For everyday snacks, guests can enjoy fresh selections such as soft pretzels and cheesy bread sticks. The new hot food selections are in addition to fresh fruit, gourmet deli sandwiches, yogurt parfaits, and more.

During the first ten days after opening, Thorntons will be sampling fresh, hot food items right from the kitchen. Guests are encouraged to stop by daily to discover the new variety of foods available.

Thorntons also recently introduced Unleaded¹⁵, Thorntons' branded E15 fueling option, to guests in its Chicago area market. Unleaded¹⁵ (up to 15% ethanol, 85% gasoline) provides an octane rating of 88, and is the most widely-tested fuel ever introduced to consumers. It is approved by the EPA for use in model year 2001 or newer cars, light duty trucks, SUV's and Flex Fuel™ vehicles. This fuel is believed to deliver better performance and fewer harmful emissions.

Unleaded¹⁵ differs from E85, in that E85 is a Flex Fuel that is a mixture of up to 85% ethanol and 15% petroleum. Today, the vast majority of domestic ethanol is produced from corn, an abundant and renewable grain. This renewable fuel source helps to reduce carbon emissions, helps promote cleaner air, boosts the United States economy, creates jobs, and reduces foreign oil imports.

###

About Thorntons:

Thorntons is based in Louisville, Kentucky and currently operates 180 stores that provide fuel, fresh foods, high quality beverages, car washes and travel plazas in six states: Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Florida. Founded by James Thorntons in 1971, the company has been recognized nationally as one of the top independent gasoline and convenience stores chains. For more information visit www.thorntonsinc.com and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc and Twitter at www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc.

About Refreshing Rewards®

Launched in 2014, Thorntons' Refreshing Rewards® is a customer loyalty program that provides guests with discounts on gas and rewards based on their number of visits, not the dollar amount spent. More than 1,000,000 Refreshing Reward® card users are already registered. Learn more about Thorntons Refreshing Rewards® at www.thorntonsinc.com.

About Blue Cap:

In 1967, Blue Cap responded to the needs of the community by providing a school program that served 28 students with developmental disabilities. Today Blue Cap offers eight different programs which will provide educational, vocational, therapeutic and residential services to nearly 250 infants, children and adults. Blue Cap serves the south side of Chicago and more than 30 suburban communities.
