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Thorntons Honors General Managers, Vendors in Annual Awards

Loretta Freudiger of Fairfield, OH named General Manager of the Year

(Louisville, KY – May 13, 2016) Each year, Thorntons® honors outstanding General Managers and vendor partners for their exceptional leadership and their commitment to the Thorntons brand. The 2016 honorees were recently announced at the company's General Managers Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Loretta Freudiger of Store 550 in Fairfield, Ohio was named the 2016 General Manager of the Year. Freudiger joined the Thorntons' team in 2008 as a Store Manager and was promoted to General Manager in less than one year. In celebration of her impressive sales growth and performance, Freudiger received a night's stay in the Ritz-Carlton Presidential Suite, transportation to and from the airport in a limo, a ride home on a private jet, an all-expenses paid trip to the vacation destination of her choice, and not one, but two cars! Freudiger received her dream car—a Cadillac Escalade and her granddaughter took home her own mini version.

Thorntons also celebrated vendor partners with awards for vendors who made significant contributions to the company's success in 2015. S&D Coffee was named Vendor of the Year. Wendy Redmond accepted on behalf of the vendor. Thorntons awards this top honor to the vendor partner who consistently provides superior products and service to team members in stores and at its Store Support Center. The efforts of this company were recognized as a key contributing factor to Thorntons ability to exceed its guests' expectations while helping to reposition a key component of Thorntons' dispensed beverage business.

Additional honorees include:

McLane was recently honored with the 2016 Thorntons Initiative Award, accepted by Rob McFarland. Thorntons presents this award to companies or individuals that best exemplifies the retailer initiative.

Coca-Cola was recently honored with the 2016 Thorntons Initiative Award, accepted by Guy Cook. Thorntons presents this award to companies or individuals that best exemplifies the retailer initiative as outlined during Thorntons' Annual Meeting.

Lipari was selected by Thorntons for its Category Contribution for Fresh Food Award, accepted by Tony Franchi, Bob Bravard, and Megan Harned. This award is presented to a lead supplier that has provided the most objective and insightful category information pertaining to customer, competition and category performance.

Prime the Pump was named the Fuel Partner of the Year, accepted by Mike O'Brien. This award is granted to the organization or individual that has gone above and beyond in partnership with

Thorntons to meet the goals set for the fuel category, including supply, distribution, and product development.

Illinois Corn Marketing Board received the Alternative Fuel Partner award, accepted by Dave Loos. This honor is reserved for the company or individual that has provided the strongest support in the advancement of Thorntons' alternative fuel offerings.

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About Thorntons Inc.:

Founded by James Thornton in 1971, the company has been recognized as one of the top independent convenience store chains in the nation. Based in Louisville, Kentucky, Thorntons currently operates 181 stores that provide fresh foods, high quality beverages and fuel in six states: Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Florida. Thorntons' mission is not only to provide top of the line food and beverages, but makes giving back a top priority in every market. Learn more about Thorntons by visiting www.thorntonsinc.com. Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc and Twitter at www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc.

About Refreshing Rewards®:

Launched in 2014, Refreshing Rewards® is a loyalty program that provides guests with discounts on gas and rewards based on the number of visits, not the dollar amount spent. More than 1.5 million guests are already registered. Learn more about Refreshing Rewards at www.refreshingrewards.com.

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