



**Media Advisory:**

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Thorntons**

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**Thorntons Opens Kitchen and will offer Unleaded15™ in Channahon, IL  
In addition, partners with Guardian Angel Community Services for the Grand Opening  
Friday, August 19 at 10 a.m.**

**WHAT:** Thorntons Inc., is proud to announce the opening of its newest travel center location at 24144 W. Eames St. Channahon, IL 60410. To celebrate, there will be an official ribbon cutting and check presentation to Guardian Angel Community Services whose goal is to empower people to improve their quality of life.

**WHEN:** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Check Presentation will take place on Friday, August 19 at 10 a.m. (CDT)

**WHO:** Ed Bitondo, Director of Store Operations-Northern Division, Thorntons Inc.  
Missey Moorman Schumacher, Mayor Channahon  
Christina Van Yperen, Executive Director, Grundy County Chamber of Commerce  
Ines Kutlesa, Chief Executive Officer, Guardian Angel Services

**WHERE:** Thorntons 24144 W. Eames St. Channahon, IL 60410

**MORE:** Along with 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 mini corn dogs. The new hot food selections are in addition to fresh fruit, gourmet deli sandwiches, yogurt parfaits, and more.

The first 100 people to Thorntons beginning at 6 a.m., Friday, August 19, will receive a new Refreshing Reward card pre-loaded with prizes. If you already have a card, you can still receive a new one to see if you are a lucky Grand Opening Winner. One lucky guest will win gas for a year.

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 variety of new 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 renewable fuel source helps to reduce carbon emissions, helps promote cleaner air, boosts the United States economy, creates jobs, and reduces foreign oil imports.

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**About Thorntons:**

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 183 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](http://www.thorntonsinc.com). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc](http://www.facebook.com/thorntonsinc) and Twitter at [www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc](http://www.twitter.com/thorntonsinc).

**About Refreshing Rewards®:**

Launched in 2014, Thorntons 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 Thorntons Refreshing Rewards® at [www.thorntonsinc.com](http://www.thorntonsinc.com).

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**About Guardian Angel:**

Guardian Angel Community Services (formerly, Guardian Angel Home), was founded in Joliet, Illinois in 1897 as an orphanage, run by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate, to care for dependent and neglected children. In 1973, Guardian Angel Community Services became a licensed, child welfare agency and began focusing its efforts on addressing the increasingly complex problems of children and families. In August 2005, the Agency officially changed the name to reflect the wide array of services provided to the community. Guardian Angel Community Services expanded in the mid 1990's to include an office in Morris, Illinois, which offers counseling, and medical and legal advocacy services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The Agency is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and in January of 2012, Guardian Angel Community Services' accreditation was renewed. The congratulatory letter from the Council noted, "COA's program of quality improvement is designed to identify providers that have set high performance standards for themselves and have made a commitment to their constituents to deliver the very best quality services. COA is proud to recognize you as one of these outstanding providers, and I wish you the very best in your continuing service to the individuals in your community."

GACS is a member of the United Way of both Will and Grundy Counties and the Illinois Coalitions Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.