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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Vent-A-Hood Receives 2003 Texas Family Business of the Year® Award**

Richardson, Texas – Vent-A-Hood, the company that created the modern residential range hood, is a recipient of the 2003 Texas Family Business of the Year® Awards. The honor, given by the Institute for Family Business at Baylor University's John F. Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship, will be presented to Vent-A-Hood at a banquet on Baylor's campus Oct. 23 in Waco.

"It's a wonderful compliment to receive this award in the company of many fine and successful family businesses headquartered in our great state," said Miles Woodall III, president of Vent-A-Hood. "It is a testament to our company's perseverance and our family's determination to be the best in our industry for more than seven decades."

Vent-A-Hood was judged the state winner in its category of medium-sized businesses. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual competition analyzed family firms in areas of products and services, public reputation, succession planning, and entrepreneurial success.

Vent-A-Hood, which is celebrating 70 years of its original product, was chartered by the late Carr P. Collins, a well-known philanthropist, entrepreneur and devoted family man. Collins, who recruited his nephew Miles Woodall Jr. to lead the company, created a family business and launched an entire industry when Vent-A-Hood promoted the idea that smoke and odors could be taken out of the air from indoor cooking. The company later earned the first U.S. patent for an indoor range hood. That first model has now grown into a complete line of residential range hoods, ranging from stock products to custom made hoods for the high-end appliance user, as the company's signature body of work.

Vent-A-Hood and Milestone Distributors, a spin-off distribution company, have continued the family legacy of promoting and celebrating luxury appliances as the standard in today's modern home. Today, both companies enjoy the involvement of the family's fourth generation, and the future remains strong for the Woodall family and its impact on America's appliance industry.

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Vent-A-Hood, which recently celebrated its best quarter in company history, has plans to add an additional 50,000 square feet of space to the company's national headquarters and manufacturing plant in Richardson.

Milestone Distributors similarly has grown through a new collaboration with the Viking Range Corporation, creating the Viking Culinary Arts Center in Dallas and furthering the distributor's network of showrooms throughout Texas.

"As a family, and as a family in many businesses together, we couldn't be more pleased with where we are today," said Kirk Woodall, president of Milestone Distributors.

Baylor's Institute for Family Business was established in 1987 and has been nationally recognized for the development and dissemination of information relevant to the continuity and health of family businesses in America. It is estimated that family businesses generate about half of the gross domestic product and half of the total wages paid. About 90 percent of all U.S. businesses are family owned or controlled.

Criteria for nominated companies in the Texas Family Business of the Year® Awards included: firms headquartered in Texas, firms owned and operated by different generations of a family, a potential for business ownership to be passed to a younger generation, more than one member of the family actively employed in the organization, and firms currently active in business.

About Vent-A-Hood:

Founded in 1933, Vent-A-Hood, based in Richardson, Texas, is the oldest manufacturer of residential range hoods in America. Each product manufactured by Vent-A-Hood is individually engineered for performance in addition to style. Vent-A-Hood products are sold in all 50 states as well as Canada. For more information, please visit [www.ventahood.com](http://www.ventahood.com).

About Milestone Distributors:

A privately held distribution company, Milestone is the distributor of many high end appliances including Viking, Marvel, and Aga range. Milestone distributes these products in both Texas and Oklahoma. The products the company distributes have raised the standard by which a home is measured. For more information, please visit [www.milestonedist.com](http://www.milestonedist.com).