



Contact: Ed Bryant
Ebryant@heartlandcocacola.com

Heartland Coca-Cola Acquires Two Emporia, Kansas Companies

June 24, 2024 (Lenexa, Kan.) – Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company (Heartland Coca-Cola) has acquired Coca-Cola Bottling of Emporia (Emporia Coca-Cola) and Classic Vending – both of Emporia, Kansas.

"It truly is an exciting time for all of us at Heartland Coca-Cola," **said Chuck Wyant, President and COO.** "In our first seven years, we have consistently met our business goals and objectives, thanks to the dedication of our 2,400-plus employees and the support of our 25,000-plus customers. Our investment in the new Olathe Production Campus positions us for future growth and will provide new opportunities for our employees. We are now excited to add this new element to our business family, marking a pivotal milestone in our growth strategy."

With the acquisition of Emporia Coca-Cola, Heartland Coca-Cola has expanded its distribution territory to include Emporia, KS, and certain surrounding communities in the counties of Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, and Lyon.

Emporia Coca-Cola and Classic Vending were both established by the DeBauge family out of Emporia KS. Emporia Coca-Cola has been in operation since 1978 and Classic Vending has been in operation since 2001. Classic Vending provides vending, coffee, and micro-market services to businesses and entities in the greater Emporia area.

As we look forward in our generational investments, it is evident that the foundation of Heartland Coca-Cola's success rests upon our commitment to developing, innovating, and expanding our company's portfolio. Central to this success is our dedication to creating opportunities for our employees. As we strive to generate capital and nurture our business across expanding territories, this acquisition presents a compelling opportunity to put our vision into action. Through the integration of these two Emporia companies into our operations, we bolster our existing footprint while also exploring new avenues that offer diverse opportunities for Heartland's consideration.

About Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company

Based in Lenexa, Kan., Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company, LLC (Heartland) was founded in early 2017 by successful former NBA professional and business leader Junior Bridgeman. Bridgeman's longstanding connection to Coca-Cola and the Midwest began 30 years earlier during his NBA career when he volunteered at basketball clinics sponsored by the company. His partnership with Coca-Cola continued as he built several notable restaurant franchise operations and led to the establishment of Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

Today, Heartland is an anchor Coca-Cola bottler in the Midwest, proudly serving over 25,000 customers across Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and several counties in both Iowa and Nebraska. In addition, Heartland recently acquired Emporia Coca-Cola and Classic Vending, both of Emporia, Kansas. The Bridgeman family's founding principles guide the organization's daily operations: putting people first by creating a culture of value and inclusion, connecting with and serving its local communities, and providing the highest quality products and service to its customers and consumers. For more information on the company, please visit www.heartlandcocacola.com.