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Captive-Aire celebrates 30 years, soaring to \$180 million in annual sales

An American success story!

Raleigh, NC (November 1, 2006) – Captive-Aire – the nation’s leading manufacturer of commercial kitchen equipment – turns 30 years old today, as it skyrockets toward \$180 million in annual sales this year.

Lifelong entrepreneur, Robert Luddy, who founded the company in a one-room facility on a capital investment of \$1,300 dollars, said: “The United States is the greatest country in the world for an entrepreneur. Freedom means we can work hard, challenge bad practices, and improve services for customers. When American entrepreneurs succeed, everyone wins.”

Captive-Aire is a shining example. Luddy’s company continually increases quality in products and services, while lowering costs. As a result, Captive-Aire is the largest and most well-respected producer in the kitchen ventilation industry.

Captive-Aire is regularly voted “Best in Class” (www.captiveaire.com) by its customers, including independent restaurants, national chains, and other public and private institutions.

As Captive-Aire continues to grow, Luddy creates new jobs for Americans. The company added 70 new workers this year.

INC. magazine has repeatedly named Captive-Aire one of the top 500 fastest growing private companies in America. It is one of the 100 largest private companies in North Carolina and one of the top 50 fastest growing private companies in the Raleigh Triangle.

The company employs 650 sales, engineering, and production staff in four manufacturing plants and 57 sales offices in the U.S. and Canada. Its cross-country network of local offices allows sales personnel and engineers to quickly respond to customers and assess job sites.

Outside Captive-Aire, Luddy fosters economic development in his community and mentors burgeoning entrepreneurs. An education advocate, Luddy supports and builds schools. Students at the public charter school and private Catholic school which Luddy founded in his hometown consistently win awards for academic and civic excellence.

“Bob Luddy’s entrepreneurial, can-do attitude is boundless. He makes it possible for others to build their own American Dream,” said Judy Nunnenkamp, vice president of Personnel and 23-year employee.

Captive-Aire produces integrated kitchen ventilation systems, including exhaust hoods and fans, electrical controls, direct-fired heaters, and utility distribution systems.

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Kitchen Ventilation Equipment Manufacturer