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**THREE FOUNTAINS ACE HARDWARE NAMED 'BEST HARDWARE STORE'
Lexington Life Magazine Bestows Honor on Local Store**

WEST COLUMBIA, S.C., January XX, 2012 – *Lexington Life* magazine has solidified Three Fountains Ace Hardware's standing as the local "helpful place" by recognizing it as the "Best Hardware Store" in the area. The store received this honor based on readers' votes in the "2012 Best of Lexington Life" poll.

"I credit our entire team for receiving this impressive award," said Terry Reynolds, owner of Three Fountains Ace Hardware. "Every day our employees come to work and get great joy out of providing excellent customer service to everyone who walks in the door. That, coupled with our vast product knowledge, has really cemented our place in the community as the go-to hardware store."

A neighborhood fixture for 20 years, the locally-owned store boasts a customer base that drives from miles around to take advantage of the team's helpful and knowledgeable associates. Once there, customers have access to a multitude of home improvement products to help them complete home maintenance projects quickly and easily.

"We applaud Three Fountains Ace Hardware's owners and staff for their commitment to excellent service in the community," said Kane Calamari, vice president of retail operations and new business at Ace Hardware Corporation. "We have a dedication to helpful customer service throughout all of our stores, and Three Fountains is a strong example of this great service in action."

In 2011, Three Fountains Ace Hardware was named the "Best Place to Buy Paint" in the Lexington area. All of the winners of the "2012 Best of Lexington Life" poll will be featured in the February 2012 issue of *Lexington Life*.

For more information about Three Fountains Ace Hardware, located at 2930 Emanuel Church Road in West Columbia, visit www.acethreefountains.com.

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About Ace Hardware

For more than 85 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the helpful hardware store in thousands of communities across America. Customers depend on Ace to help them take care of their homes quickly and easily so they can get on with their lives. In 2011, Ace ranked "Highest

in Customer Satisfaction among Home Improvement Stores for the Fifth Consecutive Year,” according to J.D. Power and Associates. With 4,500 locally owned and operated hardware stores, Ace is the largest hardware cooperative in the industry. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace currently operates 14 distribution centers in the U.S. It also has distribution capabilities in Shanghai, China; Panama City, Panama; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its retailers’ stores are located in all 50 states and more than 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit www.acehardware.com.