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**PAUL'S ACE HARDWARE STORES ACHIEVE HIGHEST LEVEL OF RECOGNITION FROM
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION FOR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE**

Neighborhood store recognized as a top performing retail location

SCOTTSDALE, AZ, January 29, 2021 – Ace Hardware Corporation is pleased to announce that Paul's Ace Hardware Stores of Fountain Hills, Tempe at Priest and Broadway, Scottsdale on McDonald, Tempe at Rural and Broadway, Scottsdale on Via Linda and Payson, have all achieved designation as "Pinnacle Performance Retailing" stores for their outstanding performance. Developed as part of Ace's retail growth strategy, Higher Ground, Pinnacle Performance Retailing is focused on Ace's customers to ensure that Ace stores deliver on its helpful brand promise.

For more than 96 years, Ace Hardware has been serving its neighbors with helpful service and quality products. Paul's Ace Hardware Stores are a third generation run, locally owned, family business that have been serving their communities since 1956. With more than 5,300 Ace Hardware stores in approximately 70 countries, the teams at Paul's Ace Hardware Stores are one of only a few hundred Ace retailers to achieve this elite Pinnacle status. To achieve Pinnacle Performance Retailing, the teams at Paul's Ace Hardware Stores successfully completed a number of key performance drivers focused on quality, service and convenience, helping them provide a better overall shopping experience in their local community.

One example of a proven performance driver is "Helpful Certification," the foundational element of Ace's "Certified Ace Helpful" retail training curriculum. To become certified, Ace Hardware associates complete courses such as Helpful 101 and 201 and the store conducts a week-long team-based certification event.

"Achieving Pinnacle Performance Retailing is a tremendous accomplishment for an Ace store," said John Kittell, Vice President, Retail Operations and New Business, Ace Hardware Corporation. "We're pleased to recognize Paul's Ace Hardware Stores and their associates for their outstanding achievements, and proud to say they are a part of the Ace family."

"The teams at Paul's Ace Hardware Stores are incredibly pleased to have earned the status as a Pinnacle Performance Retailing store," said Julie Buchkowski, President at Paul's Ace Hardware. "What this means for our customers is that we are more committed than ever to providing the best possible retail experience; from customer service to quality product offerings and more. We're taking 'Ace helpful' to a new level."

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Ace Hardware is the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the world with more than 5,300 locally owned and operated hardware stores in approximately 70 countries. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace and its subsidiaries operate an expansive network of distribution centers in the U.S. and have distribution capabilities in Ningbo, China; Colon, Panama; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Since 1924, Ace has become a part of local communities around the world and known as the place with the helpful hardware folks. For more information, visit acehardware.com or newsroom.acehardware.com