

The Gaston County Economic Development Commission is pleased to assist in the important distribution of this press release:

**HUNTER DOUGLAS DESIGNER SHADES**  
**CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTING / GRAND OPENING**  
**OF NEW OFFICE AND MANUFACTURING FACILITY**  
~ Company also receives a Safety Award ~

BESSEMER CITY, N.C., June 22, 2004 – Hunter Douglas Designer Shades, a division of Hunter Douglas Inc., the nation’s leading manufacturer of custom window coverings, officially opened its new headquarters – a 185,000 square foot office and manufacturing facility on 20 acres at 201 Southridge Parkway in Bessemer City. Allan W. Farris, Mayor of Bessemer City, Jennie Stultz, Mayor of neighboring Gastonia, and Ray Denny, Director of the Business / Industry Development Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, joined Hunter Douglas top management and Designer Shades employees to help celebrate the occasion. Robert Becker, congressional liaison for the Honorable Sue Myrick, U.S. Congresswoman for North Carolina, was also in attendance.

Mayor Farris proclaimed Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hunter Douglas Designer Shades day in Bessemer City and Ray Denny read a Greetings Letter from Governor Michael F. Easley. Hunter Douglas Designer Shades also was conferred the Hunter Douglas President’s Safety Award by Hunter Douglas Inc. President and CEO Marv Hopkins.

Hunter Douglas Designer Shades was previously located at 1924 Chespark Drive in Gastonia, where the company operated in three separate facilities with a total of 85,000 square feet. The new location is 100,000 square-feet larger at 185,000 square feet in one state-of-the-art facility. The building includes 150,000 square feet of manufacturing space and the rest is devoted to offices for customer service, marketing, accounting and human resources.

Jake Robinson, Vice President and General Manager of Hunter Douglas Designer Shades, spoke about how the relocation, which was completed on June 1<sup>st</sup>, has been a longtime mission for the company. The company first broke ground in Gastonia in 1990 and at that time only employed a handful of people to manufacture one product – pleated shades.

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## HUNTER DOUGLAS CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTING / GRAND OPENING – 2

Today, the division boasts 150 full-time employees and approximately 50 temporary employees and manufactures Brilliance® pleated shades, Remembrance® window shades, Jubilation® Roman shades, Provenance® woven woods and Designer Screen Shades – custom window coverings that are known to homeowners across America. “These products have consistently achieved double-digit growth and exceeded our projections” said Hurley Mitchell, President of the Manufacturing Group for Hunter Douglas Inc. “And, they have earned top awards from the Window Covering Manufacturers Association, the benchmark of excellence in the industry.”

Hurley also spoke about the positive economic environment that Bessemer City, Gaston County, Gastonia and the state of North Carolina have provided Hunter Douglas Designer Shades and how they have helped the company grow and prosper.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Marv Hopkins, President and CEO, conferred the division with the President’s Safety Award. Hunter Douglas Designer Shades earned the best safety rating in 2003. “Safety is the cornerstone of Hunter Douglas excellence,” said Hopkins when conferring the award. “Designer Shades’ safety performance is consistently far better than the industry norm and was the best in Hunter Douglas North America’s 30 divisions in 2003.” Lynne Woody, Hunter Douglas Designer Shades Human Resources / Safety Manager, and Cameron Croston, Quality Assurance Manager for the division, accepted the award. This is the second year Hunter Douglas Designer Shades has won the award.

Hunter Douglas Designer Shades is located at 201 Southridge Parkway, Bessemer City, North Carolina, 28016; tel. 704-629-6500.

Hunter Douglas Inc. is a national sponsor of Habitat for Humanity, covering windows in every Habitat home built in the U.S. and Canada. Headquartered in Upper Saddle River N.J., the company is the leading manufacturer of custom window coverings in North America.

For more information, contact Hunter Douglas at 1-800-937-STYLE (1-800-937-7895) or visit: [www.hunterdouglas.com](http://www.hunterdouglas.com).

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