



BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP® Opens at Westfield Belden Village in Canton, Ohio

July 2, 2005

ST. LOUIS, MO (July 2, 2005) - Build-A-Bear Workshop® (NYSE: BBW), Where Best Friends Are Made® is opening a store at Westfield Belden Village in Canton, Ohio on Friday, July 22. Westfield Belden Village offers Guests a wide variety of retail stores to choose from and Build-A-Bear Workshop is thrilled to be able to offer Guests in the Canton area a unique and exciting retail experience.

Build-A-Bear Workshop is based on the premise that nearly everyone, regardless of age, has a special fondness for stuffed animals. When Guests visit a Build-A-Bear Workshop store, they enter a lighthearted teddy-bear-themed environment consisting of bear-making stations. Guests choose their furry friend to make, stuff it just right, and add personality with hundreds of outfits and accessories. The company is also known for the memorable heart ceremony that takes place during the bear-making process. This station allows Guests to choose a red satin heart, make a special wish and place it inside their stuffed animal.

As Guests enter a Build-A-Bear Workshop store they are introduced to a variety of stuffed animals including bears, dogs, cats, bunnies, monkeys and a series of Beary Limited™ edition Collectibear® animals. Build-A-Bear Workshop stuffed animals are very affordable, ranging in price from \$10-\$25. Hundreds of coordinating outfits and accessories are also available to further personalize new furry friends. Guests in Canton have the chance to show their team spirit by purchasing special bear-sized Cleveland Indians' uniforms, Tiny Tees® and accessories. In addition, Cleveland Cavaliers' jerseys and Cleveland Browns' uniforms are available for all basketball and football fanatics. As part of the grand opening celebration, on Saturday, July 30, Build-A-Bear Workshop® invites the first 200 Guests to participate in Stuffed with Hugs Project Bearlift. They will make a bear for free to be donated to UNICEF for distribution to children affected by the Tsunami. Stuffed with Hugs™ began in 2001 and since then Build-A-Bear Workshop® has donated over 125,000 bears to worthy causes. The purpose of Stuffed with Hugs is to give children a chance to help others. Build-A-Bear Workshop is a store for, and about, kids and Stuffed with Hugs has allowed kids to put smiles on the faces of tens of thousands of other children. It is a simple, yet significant way for kids to help other kids and make a difference.

With an existing store location in Summit Mall in Akron, Ohio, Maxine Clark, Founder and Chief Executive Bear of Build-A-Bear Workshop, is looking forward to opening the second store in the area. She notes, "Our plan is always to open in the premier malls across the country, and we will continue this approach as we open at Westfield Belden Village. We have had many Guests who have visited our other locations ask us when we will be opening at Westfield Belden Village. Now, we will be able to reach even more of our friends in the Canton area and we are thrilled to be here."

Build-A-Bear Workshop continues its aggressive expansion plan nationally by opening in new markets this year, including Mobile, AL, Jackson, MS, Toledo, OH, Hamilton, Ontario, Charleston, WV, Tucson, AZ, Bakersfield, CA - as well as internationally. The company has been developing its global strategy for the past

several years, and has opened stores in United Kingdom, Japan, Denmark, South Korea, Australia and France.

Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc. (NYSE: BBW), with fiscal 2004 total revenue of \$302 million, is the only national company that offers Guests an interactive make-your-own-stuffed animal retail-entertainment experience. The first store opened in St. Louis in 1997; the company currently operates over 190 stores in the United States and Canada. With the opening of its store in Sheffield, England, in the fall of 2003 and the addition of international stores in Japan, Denmark, Australia, South Korea and France, Build-A-Bear Workshop has become the global leader in the teddy bear business. In November 2004, the company opened two friends 2B made® stores, the newest concept based on the doll-making experience. For more information about the company and its products, call 888.560.BEAR (2327) or visit the company's award-winning web site at www.buildabear.com.

TRADEMARKS

We would like to thank you for your interest in covering our business. As you write your story we ask that you use our full Name: Build-A-Bear Workshop® and that when referencing the process of making stuffed animals you use the word "make" not "build".

Build-A-Bear Workshop® is our well-known trade name and our registered trademark of Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc. Build-A-Bear Workshop® should only be used in capital letters to refer to our products and services and should not be used as a verb.

Contact: Jennifer Mansell
314.423.8000 ext. 5402
414.801.1146 cell
jenniferm@buildabear.com

Shawn Bertani
314.423.8000 ext. 5366
314.452.6391 cell
shawnb@buildabear.com