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### **INNOVATIVE STONE FACADE MANUFACTURER LOCATES IN GREER, OVER 30 NEW JOBS EXPECTED**

**GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC -- November 6, 2007 --** The Greenville Area Development Corporation announced today that **The Yoder Stone Company, LLC**, an innovative start-up business that manufactures and distributes decorative stone facades for residential and commercial structures, has established operations in Greer.

The company has leased and outfitted a formerly-vacant facility located on Batesville Court in Greer, and expects to be fully operational in January, 2008. Capital investment over the next 2-3 years is expected to be \$1 million, and the company intends to hire a minimum of 20-30 full-time employees during the next year. The company will produce its patent-pending stone façade product, Yoder Stone™, at the location.

Yoder Stone™ is a lightweight concrete façade with a super-hard surface designed to replicate natural stone. It can be used on exterior and interior walls, yet because of its lightweight composition, it does not require additional footings. Yoder Stone™ is intended for nonstructural use and can be applied to load bearing walls, wood frame, steel, or masonry.

The start-up company is the brainchild of Andy Yoder of Greer, an entrepreneur and veteran of the decorative concrete industry. Noticing a major gap in the stone veneer market, Yoder and his family have brought several innovative products to market, including the Yoder Stone™ product line.

Yoder Stone™ is produced from Portland Cement, lightweight aggregates and various additives, and is formed in rubber molds produced from natural stone. Types include stone veneer, hearthstones, window treatments and wall caps, all available in a variety of sizes, shapes and colors.

“With the help of a team which we will recruit and train through OneStop, South Carolina’s Workforce Development System, we anticipate a rapid growth market for this product, both domestically and even internationally,” noted Dave Witbeck, chief operations officer of The Yoder Stone Company. “We will market the product through contractors and distributors, and expect a very positive reception. This product means jobs for South Carolinians and Greenville County – truly a win-win.”

South Carolina’s Workforce Investment Act (WIA) focuses on meeting the needs of businesses for skilled workers as well as the training, education, and employment needs of individuals. Key

components of the Act enable customers to easily access the information and services they need through the "One-Stop" system; adults are empowered to obtain the training they find most appropriate through Individual Training Accounts, and "One Stop" ensures that all State and local programs meet customer expectations.

"We expect that within 12 months we will be operating two shifts a day and employing up to 30 Upstate residents," said Witbeck. "From there, it's realistic to think that we could employ as many as 80-100 full-time associates within 3 years. This is definitely a growth opportunity."

"Greenville County is an ideal and strategic location for a growth business like ours," stated Witbeck. "This area is conducive to growing a business, offers a moderate cost of living, is central to the Southeastern growth center for construction and building products, and is dedicated to helping start-up organizations like ours gain access to the capital, talent and training we need to succeed. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the Greenville Area Development Corporation and the South Carolina Department of Commerce for their assistance in making The Yoder Stone Company a reality."

"Today's announcement is another sign that our efforts to improve the economic soil conditions are working to encourage new industry development and promote business growth. We remain committed to continuing these efforts to further enhance the state's business climate and create opportunity for more South Carolinians," said Gov. Mark Sanford.

Commerce Secretary Joe Taylor added, "Our state's economy is giving more people the tools necessary to establish creative new industries. Yoder Stone is an exciting new venture and a welcomed addition to the state's business community. Thanks to the team efforts of the state and local officials and the workforce development system, the Greenville area will benefit from this investment."

"Yoder Stone's decision to launch here in Greenville County is the result of a team effort," added Butch Kirven, chairman of Greenville County Council. "**Yoder Stone** will contribute to the expanding architectural beauty of our community, while creating good paying jobs for our citizens. We're pleased to have them here in Greenville County."

"We're pleased that the leadership team at **The Yoder Stone Company** recognized the many advantages that Greenville County offers their company," said Jay Rogers, Chairman of the Greenville Area Development Corporation Board. "Yoder Stone is a family-owned, entrepreneurial business with innovative processes and rapid growth potential, and is a welcome addition to Greenville County's growing business community."

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*The Greenville Area Development Corporation is a non-profit organization established by Greenville County Council to promote and enhance the economic growth and development of Greenville County. For additional information, visit them on the web at [www.greenvilleeconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.greenvilleeconomicdevelopment.com) or call (864) 235-2008.*