LAPAYETTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Completeful set to purchase former Walmart building on Evangeline Thruway

Lafayette, LA— Today, local officials announced Completeful, a drop shipping fulfillment service, is under contract to purchase the former Walmart building on Evangeline Thruway and will consolidate operations from three Lafayette Parish facilities to the building. The company currently has 100 full time employees with plans to fill an additional 100 positions this year. During peak production periods, the company may have as many as 500 employees with the addition of seasonal hires.

"Being able to operate under one roof has always been the goal, but we have been growing so fast we have been unable to find a building with enough power and space to accommodate that, said Josh Goree, Completeful founder. "The new Completeful facility will provide both."

The company was started in Goree's garage, where he built the first laser engraver and focused on weddingrelated products. Eventually he moved into fulfillment to give others the opportunity to sell similar products without the upfront costs of machinery and overhead.

The expansion will allow the company to go from processing 5,000 orders a day to 30,000 orders a day. The company, which has experienced 200-400% growth annually, has fulfilled more than one million orders.

"For far too long we have seen businesses move out of North Lafayette. It is time that we start bringing investment back to the Evangeline Thruway Corridor and Completeful is one more step towards bringing more businesses, jobs, and commerce back to the area," said Josh Guillory, Lafayette Mayor-President.

"Today's news is the result of years of effort from community leaders," said Gerald Boudreaux, Louisiana State Senator. "This is the next step in the rebirth of the Evangeline Thruway Corridor and is important for all of North Lafayette. The creation of new jobs in the area are the way we will get to the finish line."

According to reports, 62% of U.S. shoppers say they shop more online now than before the pandemic. With proprietary software that integrates with Shopify and Etsy online storefronts, Completeful allows companies and individuals to create digital mock-ups of products for free. Completeful stocks the blank products, creates the personalized product, and ships it directly to the customer.

"It is wonderful to see this building will soon be occupied," said Glenn Lazard, Lafayette City Councilmember. "This, along with other businesses moving to Evangeline Thruway, is an encouraging sign of redevelopment and increased economic activity."

"The Evangeline Thruway Corridor is primed for redevelopment and reinvestment. This project can jumpstart redevelopment that will benefit both businesses and residents in North Lafayette," said AB Rubin, Lafayette Parish Councilmember.

"it is wonderful news that a building which sat vacant for two years will return to commerce with a high-growth company as its occupant," said Gregg Gothreaux, President and CEO of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority. "Completeful will provide new employment opportunities to nearby residents and may spur renewed interest in development in the area."

The company is hiring for several positions including engineers, programmers, machine operators, shift leaders, truck drivers, janitors, customer service, product preparation, wood workers, and more. Applications can be submitted through <u>www.indeed.com</u>. Search for Completeful Technologies to see the full list of open positions.