



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hamra Enterprises to Open New Panera Bread Café in McHenry *Grand opening slated for Sept. 18; gifts and giveaways to first guests*

McHenry, Ill. – Hamra Enterprises, a nationwide, family-owned, restaurant operator headquartered in Springfield, Mo., has announced the opening of a new Panera Bread café in McHenry, Ill. The café is the 90th Panera location for Hamra Enterprises, which now owns and operates 195 restaurants nationwide under the Panera, Wendy’s, Noodles and Company and Caribou Coffee brands.

The new store, located at 1850 North Richmond Road, is a relocation from 1711 North Richmond Road, which closed in May for the transition to the new site. At 4,000 square feet, the new location features free WiFi and expanded dining areas, with the ability to accommodate 89 guests indoors and 47 outside. Guests will now have the option of ordering via three kiosks, and can order their Panera favorites via, drive thru, Rapid Pick-Up®, and delivery on the Panera app.

“It has been our privilege to serve the McHenry community for the past 21 years, and we are excited to open this new, upgraded location to provide easier ways to use Panera and provide a better experience for our guests,” said **Mike Hamra, CEO of Hamra Enterprises**. “McHenry is a flourishing, vibrant community, and it is our honor to grow with it.”

To celebrate the opening of the McHenry Panera Bread café, Hamra Enterprises will host a grand opening celebration. The first 10 cars at the drive-thru and first 30 dine-in guests will receive a Free Bread-for-a-Year certificate with any purchase. For the first three days after the grand opening, any guest making a You Pick Two® purchase will receive a free large drink coupon for their next visit.

Hamra Enterprises owns and operates 195 restaurants across the eastern half of the United States under the Wendy’s, Noodles and Company, Panera, and Caribou Coffee brands. Of those, 26 Wendy’s restaurants and 36 Panera Bread cafés are in the greater Chicago area.

About Hamra Enterprises

Hamra Enterprises is a dynamic organization owned and founded in 1975 by the Hamra family with its headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and includes four restaurant brands with more than 7,400 employees in 11 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire and Tennessee. Hamra Enterprises is committed to

providing the highest quality products and services within the hospitality industry, creating exceptional experiences for people and communities by engaging each of its restaurant neighborhoods through community service, fundraising, and other philanthropic partnerships such as Boston Children's Hospital, Make-A-Wish of Illinois, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Since 2010, the Chicagoland Panera Bread cafes, with the support of their guests, have donated \$1.2 million to Make-A-Wish of Illinois. This has made possible the granting of wishes to more than 100 Wish Families in Illinois, including McHenry County. For more information, visit hamraenterprises.com.

About Panera Bread

Panera began with a simple commitment: to bake bread fresh every day in its bakery-cafes – no shortcuts, just bakers with simple ingredients and hot ovens. Each night, any unsold bread and baked goods were shared with neighbors in need. These traditions carry on today, as the company continues to find ways to be an ally for wellness to their guests. That means crafting a menu of soups, salads, and sandwiches they are proud to feed their families.

Panera Bread is also focused on improving quality and convenience. With investments in technology and operations, Panera now offers new ways for guests to enjoy their Panera favorites – like mobile ordering and Rapid Pick Up® for to-go orders and delivery – all designed to improve the guest experience.

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