



Allen Ryan
Covelli Enterprises
3900 E. Market Street
Warren, OH 44484
Cell – 330-501-2380
[Allen.Ryan @covelli.com](mailto:Allen.Ryan@covelli.com)

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

THE 9TH ANNUAL PANERATHON 10K/2 MILE FUN RUN/WALK EXCEEDS \$2.5 MILLION RAISED

The Valley's largest fundraising event brings 11,000 community members together for a cause

Warren, OH —The Panerathon 10k/2 mile fun run/walk, the Valley's largest community fundraising event, hosted 11,000 community members Sunday at the Covelli Centre in downtown Youngstown. The continued support and large participation from the community over the past 9 years has generated more than \$2.5 million for the Mercy Health Foundation in support of the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center (JACBCC), the first and only comprehensive breast care center in Youngstown. These funds have begun to result in real breakthroughs in local breast cancer outreach, education and early diagnosis.

One hundred percent of the \$515,000 from this year's event benefits the JACBCC, where more than 68,000 exams have been performed since its doors opened in 2011. The money raised from Panerathon has also allowed for the purchase of a mobile mammography unit that has brought the life-saving services of the JACBCC to even more women in the region who may not have had access previously. The unit has already performed nearly 2,000 exams in the tri-county area since 2016 and is the only of its kind in eastern Ohio with 3D mammography technology, which improves breast cancer detection and accuracy. At this Sunday's Panerathon, the Joanie Abdu Mobile Mammography Unit was open to the public for touring.

Covelli Enterprises, in partnership with the Mercy Health Foundation, underwrites the costs of hosting the event so 100% of sponsorships and registration fees can be donated directly to the cause.

"Each year I am overwhelmed with emotion at the start of the race when I see the people of the Valley come together for a purpose," said Sam Covelli, Owner/Operator of Covelli Enterprises. "This cause has a unique ability to rally a diverse mix of community leaders, business owners, volunteers, non-profit groups, co-workers, friends, families, and children. The passion we see at Panerathon is what is going to help our Valley continue to make advances against breast cancer, and I will forever be grateful to live, work, and run my business in a place where there is this much goodwill and generosity."

"We are grateful to the many participants, volunteers and certainly Sam and Caryn Covelli for the overwhelming support given to the Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center. The Mahoning Valley is healthier because of Panerathon," said Paul S. Homick, Jr., President of Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley. "What is most gratifying is that Panerathon represents the entire community coming together to do something great... it represents the best of a community helping each other in the community."

This year, 1,500 kids lined up to participate in the 7th Annual Kids Run presented by PNC. The fun continued with a post-race celebration including PNC's Grow Up Great Mobile Learning Adventure, Youngstown Phantoms Slap Slot, face painting, exhibits from OH WOW! Science Center, a 55" big screen TV giveaway from Burgan Real Estate, free massages by NovaCare Rehabilitation and Blue Sky Therapy, bounce-a-rounds, a variety of other local vendors, and O'Charley's food being sold to raise money for cause.

About Covelli Enterprises

Covelli Enterprises operates more than 300 Panera Bread bakery-cafés in eight states. Headquartered in Warren, Ohio, Covelli Enterprises is the single largest franchisee of Panera Bread, LLC. In 2017, Covelli Enterprises donated more than \$32 million to hunger relief agencies and non-profit organizations. www.panerathon.org, www.covelli.com.

###