



Melissa Lemieux  
843.300.7859  
[Melissa.Lemieux@covelli.com](mailto:Melissa.Lemieux@covelli.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PANERA BREAD BECOMES 2017 CORPORATE SPONSOR WITH TOYS FOR TOTS**

*Covelli Enterprises will be raising funds at café registers for the month of December*

**SOUTH CAROLINA/GEORGIA– 11/27/17**, Panera Bread's largest franchisee Covelli Enterprises is set to partner this year with the Toys for Tots Marine Foundation for the month of December. The sponsorship is provided in part by funds raised through Panera Bread's program known as Operation Dough-Nation which utilizes Community Bread Boxes located near the cafe registers to collect cash donations from customers for local causes.

In conjunction with raising cash donations, all participating Covelli Markets will be assisting in a local toy buy or a toy distribution, with the Toys for Tots representatives.

"We are very pleased to welcome Panera Bread as a national corporate sponsor of the 2017 Marine Toys for Tots Campaign," said retired Marine Colonel Ted Silvester, vice president of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. "Their community service goals certainly align with those the Marine Corps has promoted for nearly 70 years through our Toys for Tots Program." Silvester concluded, "With their generous support we will be able to fulfill the Christmas holiday dreams of less fortunate children who otherwise might be forgotten."

### **About Covelli Enterprises**

Covelli Enterprises operates more than 300 Panera Bread bakery-café's in seven states. Headquartered in Warren, Ohio, Covelli Enterprises is the single largest franchisee of Panera Bread, LLC. In 2016, Covelli Enterprises donated more than \$28 million to hunger relief agencies and non-profit organizations. [www.covelli.com](http://www.covelli.com)

### **About Toys for Tots and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation**

Established in 1947, Toys for Tots is the Marine Corps' premier community action program and an official activity of the U.S. Marine Corps as well as an official mission of Marine Forces Reserve. The mission of the program is to collect new, unwrapped toys, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children. The goal is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens. Since 1947, the Marine Toys for Tots Program has distributed 512 million toys to 237 million children.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit charity established in 1991 at the behest of the Marine Corps to support the Marine Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation's mission is to provide a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas time. Since its inception in 1991, the Foundation has supplemented local toy collections with over 117 million toys valued at over \$920,000.

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