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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOCAL PANERA BREAD FRANCHISE NAMED CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S  
"CORPORATE CAUSE MARKETER OF THE YEAR"**

*Covelli Enterprise's 'Pieces of Hope for Autism' campaign recognized by Cincinnati Children's.*

CINCINNATI, OH, December 14 – Ohio-based Covelli Enterprises, the largest franchisee of Panera Bread nationwide, was recently named Cincinnati Children's Hospital's "Corporate Cause Marketer of the Year" for the company's annual *Pieces of Hope for Autism* campaign.

For one week during the month of April, every Panera Bread in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky sells a Puzzle Piece Shortbread Cookie and donates 100% of the proceeds back to Cincinnati Children's Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. In just two years, Covelli Enterprises has donated nearly \$50,000 to the Kelly O'Leary Center through this worthwhile campaign.

"Everyone in this region knows someone impacted by the world-renown services of Cincinnati Children's," said Sam Covelli, Owner/Operator, Covelli Enterprises. "And, more impactful to this particular cause, everyone knows a family touched by Autism Spectrum Disorder. That's why our *Pieces of Hope* campaign has resonated among the residents of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky in such a short period of time."

The 2018 *Pieces of Hope* cookie campaign resulted in a nearly \$25,000 donation to Cincinnati Children's this year. The Kelly O'Leary Center uses the funds locally to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder in the tristate and supports treatment that improves outcomes for children with ASD and their families.

"Generosity from Covelli Enterprises means so much to the patients and families who turn to Cincinnati Children's for care," says Natalie Gerano, Donor Relations Officer at Cincinnati Children's. "Their inclusive support provides opportunities for our patients to learn, grow and socialize as we seek new and innovative ways to nurture and support their individual interests and needs."

Since 2010, Covelli Enterprises has donated more than \$1.7 million to autism organizations in the areas it serves across eight different states. The franchise was awarded this prestigious distinction from Cincinnati Children's at the hospital's annual Dinner with Champions event on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

**About Covelli Enterprises**

Covelli Enterprises operates more than 315 Panera Bread bakery-cafés in eight states, and 24 in the tristate area. 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.covelli.com](http://www.covelli.com)