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100% OF PANERA BREAD'S 'PIECES OF HOPE FOR AUTISM' COOKIES **APRIL 8-14 TO BENEFIT AUTISM SPEAKS GEORGIA CHAPTER** *Covelli Enterprises' support for autism organizations surpasses \$2 million*

Georgia-4/1/19-- Covelli Enterprises, the largest franchisee of Panera Bread, is partnering with Autism Speaks Georgia Chapter during the month of April through the launch of its 'Pieces of Hope for Autism' cookie campaign in honor of Autism Awareness month. Monday, April 8 through Sunday, April 14, 100% of the proceeds from all 'Pieces of Hope' cookie sales will be donated to the cause. The puzzle piece cookie has been specially designed to represent the symbol for autism and will be sold in all 7 cafes in Savannah, Pooler, Statesboro, Hinesville, Augusta, and Evans.

Since 2010, Covelli Enterprises has donated more than \$2 million in the areas it serves to support various autism organizations, schools, and centers in providing services, scholarships, research, treatment, advocacy, and resources for families.

"The 'Pieces of Hope for Autism' campaign is our largest company-wide initiative that we host every year. It involves more than 215 participating Panera locations in eight states and the hard work of more than 450 bakers to create these special, life-changing cookies," said Sam Covelli, Owner/Operator of Covelli Enterprises. "We put everything we have behind this one-week campaign because our cookies have made such a significant difference for our partners and those with autism within the communities we serve.

Autism Speaks Georgia Chapter will also benefit during the whole month of April from the company's Round Up Program, which allows customers to round up their order total to the next dollar at the register.

Panera Bread is encouraging 'Pieces of Hope' campaign supporters to share photos of their cookies on social media using [#everycookiecounts](#). Cookies may be pre-ordered online at www.covelli.com/autism.

The puzzle piece cookie is sold only in Covelli-owned and operated Panera Bread cafés each year. The cookie consists of Panera Bread's famous shortbread topped with sweet white icing and an edible sugar decal and is made completely free of any artificial colors, flavors, additives or preservatives.

About Covelli Enterprises

Covelli Enterprises operates 315 Panera Bread bakery-cafés in eight states. Headquartered in Warren, Ohio, Covelli Enterprises is the single largest franchisee of Panera Bread, LLC. In 2018, Covelli Enterprises donated more than \$32 million to hunger relief agencies and non-profit organizations. www.covelli.com

About Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. We empower people with autism and their families with resources, online tools and information covering the life span. Go to AutismSpeaks.org to learn more, donate or join a fundraising walk.

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