



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2011

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**Panera Bread Associates donate over \$14,000 in gifts to Children's Mercy Hospital
3rd Annual OPERATION G.I.F.T.**

KANSAS CITY METRO — The Associates, Bakers and Managers of Panera Bread with locations throughout Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka, Manhattan, Lawrence and St. Joseph are proud to announce the successful delivery of over 3,000 items that included toys, art supplies and personal care items valued at over \$14,000 to Children's Mercy Hospital from Operation GIFT.

Operation GIFT, Giving Incredibly Fun Toys, was created to meet the need of Children's Mercy Hospital patients who are often in the hospital for months at a time. During the first two weeks of November employees of the 31 Bakery/Café's personally donated over \$14,000 in new toys, art supplies and personal care items for the children at Children's Mercy Hospital. "This was great time to celebrate the generosity of those we work with", said Michelle Cole, Director of Marketing for Panera Bread of Kansas.

This donation is one of many contributions Panera Bread makes each day to build their relationships with those living and working in their communities. Operation Doughnation is a nightly donation of bakery items to those in need within our community keep Panera Bread connected with those that we serve each day. To learn more, visit www.panera-kansas.com.

With its concept embedded in handcrafted, fresh-baked, artisan bread, Panera Bread stands by its mission—a loaf of bread in every arm.

About Panera Bread of Kansas

Panera Bread of Kansas operates 31 bakery-café locations in both Kansas and Missouri, including the Kansas City metro area, Wichita, Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan and St. Joseph. Coming soon to Derby, KS, Brookside, KCMO and Sedalia, MO.

Founded in 1993, Panera Bread of Kansas takes pride in providing great customer service from friendly associates who offer an "everyday oasis" for valued guests. For more information, please visit www.panerakansas.com.

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