



## **Hamra Enterprises Announces the Acquisition of 13 Panera Bread bakery-cafes located in Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi**

**Springfield, MO (February 28, 2019)** – Hamra Enterprises, a franchisee of Panera Bread today announced it has acquired 13 Panera Bread cafés located in Memphis, Tennessee with stores also located in Jonesboro, Arkansas and Mississippi. This acquisition expands Hamra’s operating footprint to over 70 Panera Bread bakery-café across 5 states.

“We are excited to be acquiring a great market from the Postle family. We’ve been operating as successful Panera Bread franchisees since 1998 and this acquisition provides us an exciting opportunity to expand our reach and continue delivering exceptional experiences in the southern region,” said Mike Hamra, President & CEO of Hamra Enterprises.

With this acquisition Hamra Enterprises will own and operate a combined total of 170 quick-service, and fast casual restaurants and employing over 7000 people in 9 states.

“We have the upmost respect for the Hamra family, having known and worked with them for 45 years,” said Rick Postle, President of Blue Ridge Bread. “We are so pleased that they will continue to grow the Panera Bread footprint in the Midsouth Region and the Crossroads of Mississippi; continuing to bring fresh baked breads and clean, tasty food to our many loyal customers.”

### **About Hamra Enterprises**

[Hamra Enterprises](http://hamraenterprises.com) is a Panera Bread franchisee with 40 bakery-café in Illinois, 17 bakery-cafes in Massachusetts, and the newly acquired 13 bakery-cafes in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. It is a dynamic organization owned and founded in 1975 by the Hamra family with its headquarters in Springfield, Missouri and includes three restaurant brands and one hotel brand with over 7,000 employees in 9 states; Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Tennessee and Texas. Hamra Enterprises is committed to providing the highest quality products and services within the hospitality industry, creating exceptional experiences for people and communities by engaging each of its restaurant neighborhoods through community service, fundraising, and other philanthropic partnerships such as Boston Children’s Hospital, Make-A-Wish of Illinois, Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals in Missouri and Kansas, The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. For more information, visit [hamraenterprises.com](http://hamraenterprises.com)

### **About Panera Bread**

Panera Bread began with a simple commitment: to bake fresh bread every day in our bakery-cafes. That commitment led to others, like the early decision to remove artificial trans-fats, post calories on menu boards and invest in serving chicken raised without antibiotics. In 2014, Panera issued a comprehensive Food Policy that expressed its commitments to clean ingredients, menu transparency and having a positive impact on the food system. This included a pledge to remove artificial additives (flavors, sweeteners, preservatives and colors from artificial sources) from the food in its U.S. bakery-cafes by the end of 2016.

As of December 28, 2018, there were 2,114 bakery-cafes in 48 states and in Ontario, Canada, operating under the Panera Bread® or Saint Louis Bread Co.® names. For more information, visit [panerabread.com](http://panerabread.com)

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