

'BREAD START'

Local cafe donates fresh bread to Dean Head Start Center

CUMBERLAND – This December, Panera Bread/Howley Bread Group will mark its 10-year anniversary of the opening of its first bakery-cafe in Cranston, Rhode Island. To celebrate the milestone and its mission of “a loaf of bread in every arm”, Panera Bread is conducting a “Bread Start” program with one of its Operation Dough-Nation partners, Children’s Friend based in Providence, through early-December. The program features Panera bakers and managers making multiple visits to eight Children’s Friend/Head Start program schools in the state to provide thousands of fresh loaves of bread for children in need to share with their families. Now one of Panera’s top franchises, the Howley Bread Group, LTD of Cumberland, owns and operates six bakery-cafes in Rhode Island and a total of twenty-one Panera Breads in Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts and Eastern Connecticut markets.

The “Bread Start” program is targeting its loaves of bread to more than 1,000 children of low income families ages 3-5 years old who are affiliated with the Children’s Friend Head Start and childcare programs in Providence, Pawtucket and Central Falls. Specifically, Panera Bread bakers will be visiting the Children’s Friends/Head Start schools at the Friendship, Cianci, Dean, Varone, Manton, Pawtucket Day, Dexter and Salvation Army locations. Each school will be visited three times and every student will receive a loaf of bread each time. The “Bread Start” loaves will be baked fresh and donated from Panera Bread bakery-cafes located in Smithfield, Warwick and Cranston, Rhode Island and Attleboro and Seekonk, Massachusetts. Panera bakers are donating extra hours in order to make the additional loaves of bread needed for the program.





Local Panera Bread employees recently visited the Mary T. Dean Head Start Center in Pawtucket, distributing free loaves of bread to children to mark the 10th anniversary of the cafe. Pictured from left: Isiais Soto, Lead Baker at the Plainville, MA bakery-cafe; Fox Murray, Lead Baker and Trainer at the Seekonk, MA cafe; Brandon Allen, Lead baker and Trainer at the East Greenwich, RI cafe; and April Peloquin, Bakery Market Manager for all RI and MA bakery-cafe locations, hand out the fresh loaves of bread to the children at the Mary T. Dean Head Start Center in Pawtucket.

Submitted photo