



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **U.S. Pizza Team Restaurants Host “Pizza with a Purpose”**

*Team members’ pizzerias around the country raise some dough for the victims of Hurricane Harvey*

September 5, 2017 – Members of the United States Pizza Team (USPT) are rallying together to help those in need in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. This natural disaster exceeded all predictions of strength and ferocity and displaced tens of thousands of Houston, Texas-area citizens from their homes. Members of the USPT want to help them by donating a portion of their pizza restaurant’s sales to the Houston Food Bank on Thursday, September 7.

Twenty-three USPT members with a total of 36 locations have dedicated Thursday to raise money in the “Pizza with a Purpose” fundraiser. The members will donate \$2 for every pizza sold in their establishments to the Houston Food Bank. The nonprofit was chosen to ensure that the money is used locally and benefits as many needy residents as possible.

“This team’s members are the first to give you the shirt off their back in competition and in life as well, which is exactly what we are seeing from the citizens in the Houston area and beyond,” USPT coordinator Brian Hernandez said. “This is what our team and our country should be about.”

USPT locations and members participating in Pizza with a Purpose include:

- Panino's Pizza (3 locations), Wrigleyville, Park Ridge and Evanston, Ill. - Gino and Lenny Rago, Bruno Brunetti
- Flo’s Pizzeria locations (3 locations), Grand Rapids, Mich. -Dan Uccello
- Mellow Mushroom, 2318 Lifestyle Way, Chattanooga, Tenn. - Bradley Johnson
- Mad Mushroom (2 locations), Lafayette, West Lafayette, Ind. - Dave Sommers, Rick Wheeler
- Dominic’s Italian Restaurant, Oceanside, Calif. - Tore Trupiano
- Samosky’s Homestyle Pizzeria, Valley City, Ohio - Jason Samosky
- Master Pizza, 9735 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, Ohio - Michael LaMarca
- Gelsosomo’s, 11319 Broadway, Crown Point, Ind. - Peter Anderson
- Marabella Old World Pizza, 1898 Greenville Blvd SE, Greenville, N.C. - Massimo Mannino and Salvatore Passalacqua
- Bricks Wood Fired Pizza Café (6 locations), Northwest Suburbs, Ill. - Giovanni Labbate
- Dempseys Brewery Restaurant & Pub, Watertown, S.D. -Sean Dempsey
- The Downtown Café, Glen Cove, N.Y. - John Zozzaro
- 786°, Sun Valley, Calif. - Ali Haider
- Sinfully Gluten Free, Dayton, Ohio - Heather Zook
- Caliente Pizza and Draft House (3 locations), Pittsburgh, Pa. - Nick Bogacz



- The Lamb & The Wolf (mobile food vendor), Auburn, Calif. - Michael Wolf
- Ynot Italian, Virginia Beach, Va. (7 locations) – Anthony Disilvestro, Michael Reyes-Casanova
- SOL Pie Pizza, North Canton, Ohio – Will Shaw

The U.S. Pizza Team is sponsored by American Baking Systems, Paradise Tomato Kitchen, Gordon Food Service, Grain Craft, California Milk Advisory Board, La Nova, SoFo Foods, Bag Solutions, Fontanini, Marsal & Sons, Lillsun, Lloyd Pans, Pivetti, Presto, and Univex.

For more information about the “Pizza with a Purpose” drive or the U.S. Pizza Team, please contact Brian Hernandez at 662-234-5481 x129, or by email at [brian@pmq.com](mailto:brian@pmq.com). Visit the USPT’s website at [www.uspizzateam.com](http://www.uspizzateam.com) or view the team’s Facebook page at Facebook.com/USpizzateam.

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