



Contact:
Carol Rutledge
Rome Great Harvest Owner
Store: 706-235-1662

ROME GREAT HARVEST BREAD CO. SELECTED AS 'TOP YOUNG STORE' IN NATION

DILLON, Mont., March 25, 2010 -- Great Harvest's Rome bakery was recently selected as one of the nation's five "Top Young Stores" at the company's annual convention in Napa Valley, Calif. The local bakery was selected from 220 Great Harvest stores in 42 states and has received the award, which is based on annual store sales.

Great Harvest Bread Co., at 606 Broad St., is owned and operated by Carol Rutledge whose bakery is part of a freedom franchise that encourages owners to break out of the typical cookie cutter mold. There are very few rules and lots of room for innovation. The award underscores the effectiveness of this partnership with the freedom franchise.

"The Rome bakery emulates the spirit of Great Harvest in a big way," said President Mike Ferretti. "It's about the connectedness customers feel when they walk in the door," he said. "The bakery makes phenomenal whole wheat breads and an awesome assortment of treats, but it's more than that. They provide a really fun shopping experience. The one-of-a-kind ambiance and energy truly reflect the personality of its owners and crew."

The Rome bakery also is known for its community involvement, especially as it relates to educating customers about the health and nutrient benefits of whole grains in the areas of endurance, weight management, and the prevention of diabetes, heart disease and some forms of cancer. The bakery also frequently hosts slicing events at area functions, makes regular bread donations to local charities, and offers "ample" samples of their fresh breads every day.

"We are thrilled to receive this recognition," owner Carol Rutledge said. "We work hard doing what we love, in an amazing community and this award feels like frosting on the cake. We imagine doing anything besides handcrafting fresh breads and treats for our customers."

Originally founded in 1976 in Great Falls, Mont., Great Harvest Franchising Inc., has more than 200 bakeries located throughout the nation, including Alaska and Hawaii. Great Harvest is known for its handcrafted breads made with freshly ground, whole wheat from the high plains of Montana. Today, the neighborhood bakeries create an array of legendary fresh baked breads and sweets, as well as specialty items during holidays. Unlike most American bakeries, Great Harvest mills its whole wheat *daily*. The fresh flour is used within two days to guarantee optimum freshness, nutritional value and taste.

