



Contact:

Adriane De Ceuninck
517-482-5244 - adrianed@mramail.org

Sue LaTour
Passport Pizza - 586-416-7200

**NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
HONORS PASSPORT PIZZA AS 2014 RESTAURANT NEIGHBOR AWARD WINNER**
*- Michigan Restaurant Association Member Recognized As National Winner for
Excellence in Community Service -*

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI – April 7, 2014 – The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) announced today its 2014 Restaurant Neighbor Award winners, who will be recognized at a gala on April 29, 2014, during the National Restaurant Association's Public Affairs Conference in Washington, D.C. Passport Pizza, based in Clinton Township, MI, will be honored as one of four national restaurant operators for its outstanding charitable service.

"The restaurant industry gives back to millions of people across the U.S. every year and the recipients of the 2014 Restaurant Neighbor Award demonstrate the incredible impact they have been able to make as a result of working in the restaurant industry," said Rob Gifford, executive vice president of strategic operations and philanthropy for the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. "We are proud to recognize the charitable service of Passport Pizza. Passport Pizza's dedication to its community is truly exceptional."

Since 2005, Passport Pizza has served as a conduit for restaurants, vendors, and grocery stores to donate leftover food that is then distributed to nonprofits, shelters, projects, and soup kitchens throughout the community. Helping others help others, Passport Pizza takes pallets of food that may only have a three day shelf life and distributes them to local partners who can immediately give the food to those who need it. Passport Pizza's relationships extend to a broad span of business leaders, nonprofits, and community based organizations to help countless people including youth, families, students, churches, single mothers, and the homeless.

"Restaurants are often at the heart of their local communities," said Brian DeBano, Michigan Restaurant Association president and CEO. "And when those communities need help, restaurant owners and operators are often the first ones to step up to the plate. The work that Passport Pizza does illustrates the impact that one business can have on their community."

"To receive national recognition for the work we do is a great feeling," said Sue LaTour, president of Passport Pizza. "We simply want to do our part to change our community and make it a better place for everyone to live."

-more-

The Foundation's Restaurant Neighbor Award was created in partnership with American Express and award recipients receive a \$5,000 contribution to continue supporting their charitable initiatives.

For more information on the Restaurant Neighbor Award, as well as the national winners and finalists, visit the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's website at www.nraef.org/Build-Talent/What-We-Do/Restaurant-Neighbor/.

About the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation:

As the philanthropic foundation of the National Restaurant Association, the NRAEF exists to enhance the restaurant industry's service to the public through education, community engagement and promotion of career opportunities. The NRAEF works to attract, develop and retain a career-oriented professional workforce for the restaurant industry. The restaurant and foodservice industry comprises 980,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets and a workforce of more than 13 million employees, making it one of the nation's largest employers. For more information on the NRAEF, visit NRAEF.org.

About Passport Pizza:

Passport Pizza is a Michigan-based business operating 12 locations in Macomb County and surrounding communities. Passport Pizza offers high quality pizza with dough made fresh daily in each store. The menu offers four styles of pizza and an array of salads, bread sticks, chicken wings, pasta, and more.

###