



A Message from Turtle Bread Owner Harvey McLain
A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens

The Turtle Bread Company and our restaurants – Café Levain, Pizza Biga and Trattoria Tosca – are comprised of a community of artisan bakers and chefs, or pizza-makers and baristas, or food lovers and wine connoisseurs, and of bread fans and those who walk into one of our cafés for breakfast on a Sunday morning.

We are also surrounded by communities made up of neighbors, non-profit organizations, schools, churches and other charitable groups – some of which look to us to help them fulfill community needs.

We take these requests very seriously, and the charitable relationships we've formed with various groups stand as testament to our commitment to the community. In our 17 years of business, we have donated baked goods, gift certificates, food for silent auctions, the use of our space for fundraising events, and more to organizations including:

- Torch Theater
- St. Stephen's Church in Minneapolis
- Twin Cities RISE!
- The Mother Bear Project
- The Minnesota Opera
- The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
- Our Lady of Peace Church in Minneapolis
- Sisters Camelot
- Urban Arts Academy

We want to give more. We want to give back when times are good, and we know there's a greater need for donations when they're not. Unfortunately, we're not in a position to fulfill every request – or most requests, actually – and there are enough for me to employ someone full-time to manage them.

This is frustrating, and often brings to mind the famous opening line of the book mentioned above: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." No matter the circumstances, it is simply impossible for us to fulfill each and every

request. And as the requests continue to increase, we've found ourselves in a position where we need to set parameters as far as our charitable giving is concerned.

If you represent a non-profit organization that is located in one of the communities in which we have a presence, please complete and submit our [Donation Request Form](#), and keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Our donations are typically restricted to the products we sell – mainly bread and pastries.
- We will consider donating gift certificates in small amounts, but those contributions are the exception rather than the rule.
- We do not make cash donations.
- We ask that you please limit requests to one per organization annually.

We will review all requests, and will contact within two weeks of submission only those that have been approved. In the meantime, we ask that you please do not follow up with additional e-mails, phone calls or other contacts with staff.

Thank you for understanding my need to write this difficult letter and to put some structure to our donations efforts. It's not that I want to do this, it's that doing so has become a necessity. If you have any ideas that you believe will help us both in this process and in these difficult economic times, I welcome you to contact me at harvey@turtlebread.com.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harvey McLain". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Harvey McLain