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For immediate release

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McKee Foods surprises employees

COLLEGEDALE, Tenn. — April 6, 2018 — McKee Foods employees came to work Tuesday, April 3, expecting a routine day baking and packaging products such as Little Debbie® Chocolate Cupcakes, Donut Sticks and Honeybuns, and were completely surprised and overjoyed with an unexpected \$1,000 cash award for full-time employees and \$500 for part-time employees.



Rusty McKee, executive vice president, Manufacturing, left, appears with packaging technicians Melissa Gwen Allen and Mary Peavy, from left, after McKee Foods workers received checks from the company.

“The recent federal tax legislation will provide benefits to the company and will allow us to invest back into the business. The first thing we thought about was investing in our employees,” said Mike McKee, President and CEO.

The announcement and disbursements of checks coincided with the company’s routine, yearly Spring Report Meetings, where all employees are invited to hear an update on the company from leadership. Attendance is optional and on-the-clock.

“We decided to keep this a tightly-guarded secret to make it more fun and impactful,” said Debbie McKee-Fowler, executive vice president. “Except for our September Profit-Sharing Meetings, this is about the most fun I’ve had at work in my entire career.” Debbie and other members of the McKee family helped pass out checks. Some employees were puzzled when members of the Payroll Department showed up to help pass out T-shirts, but in general the secret was well-kept and well-guarded.

McKee Foods employees received a one-time lump sum cash award of \$1,000 for all full-time, regular employees; \$500 for all part-time, regular employees; and, \$250 for all spare, limited, and provisional employees, who were employed on or before Friday, March 23, 2018.

Employees were very happy with the surprise. Comments ranged from, “I had some unexpected things happen last week that had me strapped; this will help a lot.” To simply, “Thank you.”

About McKee Foods Corporation

McKee Foods, a family bakery with annual sales of about \$1.4 billion, is a privately-held company based in Collegedale, Tenn. The McKee Foods story began during the height of the Great Depression when founder O.D. McKee began selling 5-cent snack cakes from the back of his car. Soon after, he and his wife, Ruth, bought a small bakery on Main Street in Chattanooga, Tenn., using the family car as collateral. Today, the company employs more than 6,100 people in Collegedale, Tenn.; Gentry, Ark.; Stuarts Draft, Va.; and Kingman, Ariz. It creates and produces Little Debbie® baked goods, Drake’s® cakes, Sunbelt Bakery® snacks and cereals, Heartland® brands and Fieldstone® Bakery food products. Visit mckeefoods.com for more information.

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