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OPTIMAE GROWS SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT WITH THE OPENING OF NEW MICROBUSINESSES

FEBRUARY 10, 2017 (DES MOINES, IA) – Optimae LifeServices announced Thursday the expansion of its microbusinesses, increasing supported employment opportunities for its customers.

The company, which serves more than 3,900 Iowans with mental illness and disabilities, recently opened the Brick Street Bakery in Adel and Coal Palace Café & Books in Ottumwa, which will celebrate Monday its grand opening. It also plans to open Railroad Bill's Dining Car later this month in Des Moines' East Village.

The additions come less than a year after Optimae started Miss Molly's Jamaican Patty, a food truck in Des Moines, and Raccoon Forks Foods, a food-processing microbusiness in Ames. Optimae now employs more than 80 customers through its microbusinesses, marking a 50 percent increase in less than two years.

"Optimae sets itself apart with its growing microbusiness program, which provides our customers with valued roles in their communities and job coaches that equip them with the skills they need to succeed on the job," said William Dodds, Optimae President and Chief Operating Executive. "The businesses also allow us to add value to the communities we serve that support us every day in achieving our mission."

In addition to the five new microbusinesses, Optimae operates Plain Talk Books and Coffee and the Raccoon Forks Trading Company, an antique store. Both are located in Des Moines' East Village. It also

runs two farms located in Runnells and Redfield that raise organic vegetables and eggs, as well as Brick Street Books and Café in Adel.

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About Optimae LifeServices

Optimae LifeServices, Inc. provides healthcare and human services for individuals with disabilities and mental illness from 36 counties Southeastern and Central Iowa counties. For nearly three decades, we have equipped our customers with supports and services that encourage choice, empowerment and community integration. Our programs include community-based, behavioral health, home health and residential care services. We advocate for the rights and needs of approximately 3,900 Iowans each year, providing the quality of care we would want for our own family.