



Kate Lawson on Food

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Give a toast to Great Lakes Beverage

We're all feeling the pinch of the penny these days and restaurants are no exception. Dining out is becoming a luxury and given the choice between a home-cooked meal or a chef-created entree, the latter is taking a hit.

But Howard Wolpin, president and owner of Great Lakes Beverage, a family owned Anheuser-Busch beer distributor, wants to do something to help.

Wolpin is pitching in with a unique program to help Detroit restaurants during the recession and encouraging his employees to eat out in Detroit - and GLB is picking up the tab.

For the month of January, Wolpin will pay for an entree every time one of his employees eats in any restaurant in Detroit, under the company program dubbed "Dining in the D."

Some of the restaurants on the GLB list include Union Street, Fishbones, Mosaic, Xochimilco's and Sinbad's.



"Great Lakes Beverage has been in the Detroit community for 75 years, the businesses here are our friends and neighbors, and we want to do everything we can to help Detroit's restaurants get through these rough economic times," Wolpin said in a press release Tuesday. "Detroit is one of the best restaurant towns in the nation."

Wolpin says he's concerned about the Metro Detroit family businesses and wants to help see them through the early part of 2009, which is how he came up with the "Dining in the D" idea.

In addition to a commitment to energy efficiency, GLB is also an environmental leader and recycles nearly 1 million cans and 1.4 million glass bottles every year.

This is a company that is concerned about its community and is doing something to help.

Don't you think GLB deserves your support as well? And hey, what about other locally based businesses? We're all in this together, it's time to help one another. In the long run, we'll all be better for it.