

For Immediate Release:

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Charleston, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community volunteers who personally exhibit outstanding volunteerism and promote the improvement of our communities.

Peoples Bank & Trust has chosen Coalition for People in Need as it's Volunteer of the Quarter. The primary goal of Coalition for People in Need, or CPN, is to provide a Christian-based support program for those in need who reside in the 61920 zip code. The Coalition for People in Need was established in 1994 with several Charleston churches as the major financial sources. The Coalition also receives support through private donations, the United Way and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Director Jennifer Reilly Woodall is the only salaried staff member. There are about 25 volunteers who support the charitable works of CPN. Their volunteers screen assistance requests. If approved, help is provided in the form of vouchers for gasoline, medicine and food. Direct payments are made to landlords for rent and to utility providers. The volunteers also provide personal hygiene products to clients and assist with office management. Approximately 800 clients seek assistance each year and a large number of those receive help. The telephone number for CPN is 217-345-5099 and the office is located in the STUOR Building at 990 West State Street in Charleston. CPN's hours are from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. STUOR also houses the Charleston Area Food Pantry and Coles County Habitat for Humanity.

Peoples Bank and Trust is honoring the Coalition for People in Need with a donation and have placed its name on a plaque which is displayed in the bank's lobby. Peoples Bank and Trust has honored area volunteers in Charleston for the past nine years and the Coalition for People in Need is the 36th volunteer group recognized by the Charleston Branch of Peoples Bank and Trust.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Charleston, Tower Hill, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples Bank & Trust is a full-service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small businesses and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.