

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Pana, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Neal Oreskovich has been chosen as Peoples Bank & Trust Volunteer of the Quarter for his work with Oconee Baptist Church Food Pantry in Oconee. Neal was one of the founders of the food pantry 10 years ago.

The Oconee Food Pantry opened 10 years ago and has been going strong every since. They are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. They are a USDA site and are partners with Central Illinois Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington. They are manned strictly with volunteers and currently have 17 in all. The volunteers are from the Oconee Baptist Church and other area churches. Neal said that when they started the food bank, they served 30 – 50 people a month, now they average 1650 people a month. That is about 500 families a month. They were originally housed in the church, but have had to purchase two buildings over the years to be able to store enough food to serve everyone.

Neal said he really enjoys his work with the Food Bank. He made it very clear though, that he would not be able to do his job if it weren't for the other volunteers who help and the area businesses and private citizens who donate time, money and services to the Food Bank. He wanted to thank Oconee Grain, 1st Baptist Church, Cowden Christian Church, Sacred Heart, Shelbyville Walmart, Stark Distributing, Holthaus Appliance and the many private donors, who wish to remain anonymous.

In honor of Mr. Oreskovich's service, Peoples Bank has donated to the Oconee Food Pantry and Neal's name will be placed on a plaque displayed at the bank.

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