

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.

The Charleston Rotary Club has been chosen as Peoples Bank & Trust's Volunteer of the Quarter. The Charleston Rotary Club has been promoting goodwill, serving the school district and the area in and around Charleston for 89 years. The Charleston Rotary Club was organized and began serving the community in 1928 and Charleston is certainly better for it.

The Charleston Rotary Club focuses much of their time and contributions to the Charleston School District. Annually they present a \$1,000 scholarship to a CHS student accepted by EIU. This is a renewable scholarship as long as the recipient remains at EIU (4 year maximum). They also sponsor a luncheon annually to honor the top ten seniors graduating from CHS as well as their parents. They also sponsor a luncheon each year honoring outstanding students at Jefferson School and their parents are also invited. The Rotary Club presents *I Like Me* books to every first grade student in CUSD #1 each year. This program encourages literacy at a young age.

In 2017 the Charleston Rotary Club will complete its second year of a major funding project to provide technology to Charleston schools, necessary due to the State's financial situation. Last year's \$10,000 award was for Smart Tables for pre-schoolers and this year's award is for laptop computers for the District's 6th grade. The third installment of this grant will be in 2018 and the recipient has yet to be decided. The total value of this project is \$30,000.

For many years the Charleston Rotary Club has sponsored high school students' opportunities to live and study abroad for a year. The club also supports students from other countries coming to Charleston for the same purpose through Rotary's International Youth Exchange.

The Charleston Rotary Club also helps deliver Meals on Wheels each week, plants a flower garden on Lincoln Avenue every year, conducts roadside cleanup along IL Hwy 16 and is a strong financial supporter of the Charleston Carnegie Library. They are also in partnership with the Mattoon Rotary Club and other Rotary clubs, as well as commercial sponsorship, to fund The Heart Scan Project with Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital. This program assures all area high school athletes the opportunity to be checked for cardiac abnormalities, and each year this program finds students with unknown heart conditions.

The Charleston Rotary Club supports the 4th of July Red, White and Blue Days with a vendor stand and EIU's Homecoming with the Homecoming Pancake Breakfast event each year. They also collect soap and shampoos for veterans and women's shelters.

Peoples Bank and Trust is honoring the Charleston Rotary Club with a contribution to the Club and has placed their name on a plaque which is displayed in the bank's lobby. The Charleston Rotary Club is the twenty-eighth volunteer recognized by 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.