

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.

Darla Chouinard, of Charleston, has been chosen as Peoples Bank & Trust's Volunteer of the Quarter. Since 2008 Darla has served the Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District on their Ag Literacy Advisory Council, as Secretary/Treasurer, Associate Director and Director. She has been a U of I Extension Master Gardener since 2004 and has enjoyed chairing the Youth Gardening Committee and Spring Into Gardening Committee, as well as serving as President for two years.

Darla has been involved with the local Girl Scouts Troop for more than 22 years, serving as Leader for 14 years as well as Brownie Leader Trainer and Outdoor Camping Training. She continues to volunteer with the Girl Scouts in an advisory capacity and doing garden-focused activities with troops as well as volunteering at the annual Summer Day Camporee. Darla is currently on the Board of Directors at CCAR Industries and is a past member of the Charleston Junior Women's Club.

Besides the Peoples Bank and Trust Volunteer Award, she has previously been recognized as the U of I Master Gardener Outstanding Volunteer in 2013 and the Girl Scouts Gerry Johnson Volunteerism Award.

Darla works with her husband, Pierre, at Pro-Tran, Inc., a business they started in 1988 which specializes in tank trailer fabrication, repairs and industrial manufacturing. They have two grown children. Janelle served as a Linguist in the Navy for six years and is currently a student at EIU majoring in Metal Arts. Phillip is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute where he majored in Biology. He is currently an Officer in the USMC.

In honor of the many volunteering activities of Darla Chouinard, Peoples Bank & Trust has made a donation to HOPE of East Central Illinois for their playground renovation project. Darla's name has been placed on a plaque which is displayed in the bank's lobby.

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.