

For Immediate Release:

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Taylorville, 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 an outstanding community member for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Beth Fuchs has been chosen as our current Volunteer of the Quarter for her dedication to serving our community. Beth has served on the Kitchell Memorial Library Board since October 1977 and has served as President since 1989.

Beth has excelled as being the Volunteer Grant Writer for the library, earning over \$250,000 in grants for the Kitchell Memorial Library. She won the first ever Illinois State Disaster Grant for \$10,000 issued in 1990 for materials to be purchased for the newly constructed library. Beth wrote the winning Illinois State Library Construction Grant and led the way in fund raising for the newly constructed Kitchell Memorial Library in 1990-91. She has volunteered many hours installing computerized circulation and cataloging systems in the school libraries and the Kitchell Memorial Library. Beth organizes and supervises Summer Reading Programs for children in the community every June at the library. She continues to host Family Reading Nights every November for community families to celebrate reading. Beth serves as a Senior Citizen trainer for free basic internet lessons held at the Kitchell Memorial Library.

Beth also volunteers for Community Club projects and Morrisonville Blood Drives. She has served as a past Sunday School teacher and Bible School teacher at the United Methodist Church of Morrisonville. She serves as a volunteer Spanish tutor and Illinois Literacy mentor. Beth continues to help organize the Kitchell Memorial Library Mouse Race fundraiser in conjunction with the Morrisonville Knights of Columbus for the past 10 years. She also organized a fundraiser for the Morrisonville School Walk of Memories, which earned \$10,000. She wrote articles about the family histories for each brick donation. She has also written numerous articles for the local newspaper to raise funds for the Morrisonville American Legion's War Memorial.

Beth served as the Morrisonville School District's Media Specialist and Spanish teacher for 33 years. She has served as an advisor for many school related activities, such as yearbook advisor for 17 years, Jr. High School Student Council advisor, Play and Prom advisor, newspaper advisor, class advisor, Jr. High cheerleading advisor, teacher mentor, Student Assistance Program and too many numerous committees to list. Beth started the first National Honor Society at Morrisonville High School.

Beth served as a Library/Spanish consultant for several years after retirement in 2004. She also served on the Illinois State Board of Education School Improvement Team for two years. Beth is a current member of the Illinois State Retired Teachers Association, Illinois Retired Teachers of Christian County, Morrisonville Community Club, Morrisonville Historical Society, Morrisonville American Legion Auxiliary, N.A.R.V.R.E., and Taylorville Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She is a past member of Morrisonville Kiwanis Club and the Civic Janes, Inc. Some of Beth's past awards include Teacher of the Year in 2001, Best Library Award in 2000 and Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award in 1999.

In honor of Beth's many volunteer services, Peoples Bank & Trust is very proud to make a donation in her honor to the Kitchell Memorial Library. Her name will also be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Charleston, Tower Hill, Waverly, White Hall, Morrisonville, Palmyra 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.