

For Immediate Release:

For Additional Information Contact:

Judy Prasun, AVP, Consumer Banking  
Phone: (866) 720-8678

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 outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Linda L. Smith has been chosen as our current Volunteer of the Quarter for her many years of service to various Christian County organizations. Linda says that volunteering is her way of giving back to the people who helped her out so much during her tenure at the University of Illinois Extension office in Christian County. She has always loved being around people, and knows how much organizations everywhere depend on volunteers to succeed. Currently, Linda is serving as the President of the Christian County YMCA, President of the Christian County Extension Education Association (Building Association), a member of the Medical Affairs Committee of the Taylorville Memorial Hospital Board, Chairman of the Edinburg Christian Church trustees, Treasurer of Extension Partners (a statewide organization supporting UI Extension), a Christian County Master Gardener, a member of the Christian County LEADership Program Planning Committee, and Chairman of the GTCC Education Committee. As a member of many different organizations, Linda tries to make a difference in each one of them if she possibly can. In addition to her volunteer efforts, she raises about one half acre of asparagus every spring and almost five acres of pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, and squash every fall. All these activities keep her very busy, but she wouldn't have it any other way. Linda says, "Life is short, and, while I'm able, I consider it a blessing from God to be active and serving those around me to the best of my ability. It's the people we touch every day that can make the world a better place to live. "

At her request and in honor of Linda's services to the community, Peoples Bank has made a donation to the Refuge Ranch and Linda's name will be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Refuge Ranch is a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, located on the northwest corner of Sangchris Lake State Park, that reaches out to hurting children and families and pairs them with abused and neglected horses in a unique, mentored horsemanship program.

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

"Refuge Ranch is a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, located on the northwest corner of Sangchris Lake State Park, that reaches out to hurting children and families, and pairs them with abused and neglected children in a unique, mentored horsemanship program."