

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.

Peoples Bank & Trust has chosen Soup Stop as it's Volunteer of the Quarter. Soup Stop opened its doors in 2001 and was the idea of then-Presbyterian pastor, Susan Reichenberg. Soup Stop was originally located in the First Presbyterian Church and was there for many years. It is now located at the New Hope Worship Center at 2175 East Harrison Street in Charleston. Their mission was then and is still today "to provide a meal to anyone who is hungry".

Charmaine Owens is the President of Soup Stop's Board of Directors. Meals are served Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Every guest receives a hot meal and also a lighter cold sack meal to take home. The Soup Stop exists entirely on donations from individuals, organizations and local churches. They have around 45 volunteers including those who serve the meals, those who do weekly shopping, and those who pick up the meals and deliver them to the Soup Stop. Through a partnership with WB's Pub and Grub, they are able to provide these hot lunches. Soup Stop serves between 550 and 600 meals each month, which includes both hot meals and take home meals.

Soup Stop is located at the New Hope Worship Center at 2175 East Harrison Street in Charleston. Their webpage is www.soupstop.org. They welcome new guests and new volunteers.

Peoples Bank and Trust is honoring Soup Stop with a donation and have placed its name on a plaque which is displayed in the bank's lobby. Peoples Bank and Trust has honored area volunteers in Charleston for the past nine years and Soup Stop is the 37th volunteer group recognized by the Charleston Branch of 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.