

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 St. Hedwig Haus of Hospitality as it's Volunteer of the Quarter. St. Hedwig Haus of Hospitality provides temporary housing for women and families facing homelessness or living in poverty. The St. Hedwig Haus of Hospitality was organized after members of the St. Vincent De Paul Society met and saw a need for temporary housing for families facing homelessness or living in poverty.

St. Hedwig Haus is a three story family home with five bedrooms for its guests. The Haus opened on October 13, 2011 offering a home for women and their children in crisis. While St. Hedwig Haus has ties to the Catholic community, it is a not-for-profit entity of its own. There is a religious aspect to the house but guests do not have to be Catholic to live there. St. Hedwig's is completely funded by private donations, staffed by workers who volunteer their time to provide a true "home atmosphere" for the residents.

Upon their arrival, guests are provided a contact person to help them set goals and support the process of reaching their goals. Residents share daily chores to care for the common areas. A community meal is shared at dinner each night, cooked by guests and volunteers. There are volunteers at the Haus each day to assist with various duties -- transportation needs, helping with a job application, a homework assignment, helping with yard work, budgeting and debt reduction. Volunteers also help with childcare when needed and enjoy playing games and watching movies with the children.

In 2016, the Tolton House was opened near St. Hedwig Haus, and in 2017, the Dorothy Day House was opened. Both houses are available for guests to move to as they've successfully met their goals and changed their lives. They are single family residences and the last stage for the guests.

St. Hedwig Haus has a Resident Catholic Worker who lives in the house and is supported by a Board of Directors. There are many volunteers who are dedicated to keeping the Haus running smoothly and helping change the lives of its residents.

Peoples Bank and Trust is honoring St. Hedwig Haus of Hospitality 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 St. Hedwig Haus 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.