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SNBT Celebrates Community Banking Month

April is Community Banking Month! This nationally recognized celebration highlights the critical role community banks serve in improving our local economy. The Stephenson National Bank & Trust (SNBT) is celebrating Community Banking Month along with states, local governments, and other community banks across the country.

“This is a great opportunity to say ‘Thank you’ to our loyal customers and others in our community who have supported SNBT throughout the years,” said Daniel Peterson, SNBT President & CEO. “SNBT supports the community by reinvesting our customers’ deposits back into our local neighborhoods to make them a better place to live and work for generations to come.”

Community Banking Month celebrates the unique personal relationship that community banks have with their customers. It also shines a spotlight on the integral part they play in our nation’s financial system – by driving local economies, funding small businesses, creating local jobs, and being active in community affairs through charitable giving and volunteer time.

In addition to supporting local communities through banking services and close-knit relationships, SNBT also provides support through the donation of time and money. In 2014, the amount of volunteer time pledged by SNBT employees is 7,550 hours, encompassing 113 organizations – that is equivalent to 3.6 full-time employees for a year. In terms of monetary support, in 2013 SNBT distributed over \$100,000 to more than 100 area organizations.

“SNBT, and community banks in general, strive to sustain a strong community by forming close relationships with customers, businesses, and other community members. Maintaining this ongoing collaboration helps the local economy thrive by enabling us to understand individual challenges and tailor a plan to meet their diverse needs,” continued Peterson. “Together, we can drive our community’s economic growth and prosperity by putting local deposits back to work through financing small businesses, helping area families achieve financial stability, and providing loans to homeowners.”

Throughout the month, SNBT employees will be wearing shirts that read “I Love My Community Bank” as a reminder of how local banks make a positive impact on area neighborhoods. In the same token, a person who puts their money and their trust in a community bank can also make a real difference in the lives of their neighbors and the future of their community.