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NEWS RELEASE

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LEE COUNTY BANK & TRUST EXEMPLIFIES HOW COMMUNITY BANKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON MAIN STREET

The Fort Madison Bank Receives CBI's Community Banking Month Best-of-the-Best Award

FORT MADISON, IA – Independent community banks across Iowa have an important role and impact in their local communities. However, the volunteer work of one Iowa independent bank's employees and their ingenuity in giving back to the Fort Madison and West Point communities earned them the Community Bankers of Iowa's (CBI) Community Banking Month Best-of-the-Best Award. Lee County Bank and Trust was presented with the award and recognized during CBI's awards ceremony, held during the organization's 44th Management Conference and Annual Convention in Okoboji, Iowa, July 15-17, 2015.

The work Lee County Bank & Trust has done sends a clear message about how community banks are making a difference on Main Street. Throughout Community Banking Month (recognized in April in Iowa and across the nation) Lee County Bank and Trust's employees gave out 4,000 miniature candy bars that the whole bank helped wrap with labels that said "Proud to be YOUR Community Bank and 'Shop Locally'". They promoted several special projects during the month, including a food drive for their local food pantry, a food and cleaning supply drive for a local, no-kill animal shelter, and an Employee Book Drive for the public library where over 200 books were donated. These efforts were spotlighted in a great social media campaign as well, including daily trivia contests on Facebook. Lee County Bank & Trust's theme for this year was "Helping Our Community Grow", so they handed out a few hundred starter plants to customers. And on "Thank You Thursdays", they took turns treating city employees to breakfast.

What stood out to CBI and decided Lee County Bank and Trust as the 2015 Best-of-the-Best Award recipient were their "Random Acts of Kindness." Throughout the year employees of the bank have been giving back to those who help support the Fort Madison and West Point communities. Examples of the random acts include: free coffee to the morning "coffee club" at local establishments; free fountain beverages and coffees at local convenience stores; and pre-paying for pizzas for those who called in for evening delivery, etc. Year-round they treat bank customers to warm cookies in the bank lobbies. Recipients of the Random Acts of Kindness were all given a card that explained why they were being treated and thanking them for supporting local merchants. The card read:

Our community is very important to us at Lee County Bank & Trust N.A. and we appreciate your support of this local business to help keep our community thriving. Please accept this Random Act of Kindness from us today as a token of our appreciation. To do something, however small, to help brighten a person's day is a joy to us while giving back to those helping our community grow.

CBI's Best-of-the-Best Award distinguishes one Iowa, independent bank that epitomizes how community banks are making a difference on Main Street. "The actions of Lee County Bank and Trust throughout Community Banking Month and all year long truly exemplify the significant role that independent community banks play in stimulating their local economies," stated CBI Executive Vice President and CEO Don Hole. "Community banks are based on relationships with customers and their symbiotic relationships with the communities they serve helps small businesses and Main Street Iowa communities survive as the economy continues to recover." As the Best-of-the-Best Competition winner, Lee County Bank & Trust received the "Traveling Trophy", an honor that stays with the bank until handed over to the next honoree the following year. The bank will also receive a pizza party for their staff, hosted by and compliments of CBI.

For more information about Iowa's community banks and CBI's awards ceremony, please visit www.cbionline.org.

About CBI

The Community Bankers of Iowa exclusively promotes and defends the common interests of independently owned and locally controlled Iowa community banks whose services are vital to the preservation of economic diversity and rural America. More than 330 independent community banks are located in Iowa, representing more than 1,000 communities across the state and employing over 5,000 Iowans. CBI members have in excess of \$3.2 billion dollars in common sense loans to consumers, small businesses, and the agricultural community. For more information, visit www.cbionline.org.