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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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(Photo of Kit Stolen & Charles (Chuck) Daily Included)

## **COMMUNITY FIRST BANK IN ILLINOIS TO MERGE WITH PROVIDENCE BANK**

COLUMBIA, MO and FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, IL – March 19, 2015 – LINCO Bancshares, Inc., the parent company for Providence Bank, and Community First Bancorp, the parent company for Community First Bank, jointly announced the signing of a stock purchase agreement under which Community First Bank will be merged into Providence Bank. The proposed merger will add Community First Bank's headquarters at 4600 North Illinois Street in Fairview Heights, Illinois, to Providence Bank's existing banking network located throughout Missouri and Texas. Upon the completion of the merger, the combined financial institution is expected to have total assets approximating \$900 million. Community First Bank President, Charles (Chuck) Daily, will continue in his leadership role as Providence Bank's President in Fairview Heights.

Kit Stolen, Providence Bank's President and CEO said, "We are extremely excited about our future partnership with Community First Bank. This is a winning combination. Both banks are highly respected for their superior customer service, financial products, and strong roots in their communities. Fairview Heights is an exciting new market for Providence Bank and we look forward to Chuck Daily continuing to actively engage the customers and community in his role with Providence Bank."

Chuck Daily, Community First Bank's President, commented, "We are very proud of what has been accomplished by our team during our 26 years together at Community First Bank, and even more proud of how we have enabled our customers to meet their personal and professional financial objectives. This is a wonderful opportunity for our bank to unite with a strong and growing community bank, creating greater convenience for our customers, and ensuring a continuation of our customer service focus. Joining forces with Providence Bank will allow us to deliver more products, resources, and the lending capacity to compete more effectively in an evolving financial services arena."

The merger, which is expected to take place later this year, has been approved by each bank's Board of Directors, and is subject to regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

Community First Bank, an Illinois-chartered bank, opened in 1988 and operates a full-service banking center at 4600 North Illinois Street in Fairview Heights, Illinois. As of December 31, 2014, Community First Bank had total assets of approximately \$211 million. Providence Bank has been meeting the financial needs of individuals and businesses for more than 126 years. Today, Providence Bank has more than \$680 million in assets and thirteen full-service banking centers serving clients in Columbia, Jefferson City, Osage Beach, St. Peters, St. Charles, Chesterfield, Lake St. Louis, Elsberry, and Winfield, Missouri. In addition, Providence Bank operates the Providence Bank Mortgage Center; Providence Bank Agency Finance; Premier Bank Texas, a full-service banking center in Grapevine, Texas; and a loan production office in Denton, Texas. In addition to its office locations, Providence Bank provides anywhere, anytime financial services to customers via online banking, mobile banking and on our website at [www.myprovidencebank.com](http://www.myprovidencebank.com). Providence Bank and Community First Bank are FDIC Members and Equal Housing Lenders.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: For legal purposes Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender must be included in the published announcement.