

Bring Change benefit for Our Daily Rest set for Friday

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SENECA — Got a jar or bucket full of loose change lying around? Who doesn't, right? Well, here's a chance to cash in your money that jingles for the kind that folds — for free — and help out a good cause in the process.

On Friday, the TD Bank branch at 104 Mill Road in Seneca is hosting a Bring Change event, and all of the money processed through its “Penny Arcade” — a touchscreen machine that counts coins for customers — will be matched with a charitable donation to Our Daily Rest.

And it won't cost customers a dime of their own money ... or even a penny.

TD Bank takes pride in being a good community partner, according to assistant vice president Chris Parish, and while it only has one location in Oconee County, that philosophy applies to every branch in its footprint from Maine to Florida.

This year, TD Bank has allocated more than \$1 million to its branches, which in turn have picked roughly 500 organizations in their communities to give back.

In Oconee, that organization is Our Daily Rest, which has served more than 1,100 men and women since 2009 and is the only homeless shelter in the county. The shelter does more than simply provide a place to stay — its programs such as budgeting classes and job training encourage people to lead self-sufficient lives.

Parish said TD Bank will open its doors at 8:20 a.m. Friday for the event and will probably cut off donations around 4 or 4:30 p.m. in order to get to Our Daily Rest and present a check.

“Anyone that brings their change on this Friday, Sept. 18, to use Penny Arcade, we're going to waive (the service charge),” Parish said. “You don't have to be a client of TD Bank. We're going to go penny for penny — whatever they bring in, TD Bank is going to match. So, it's a big push for us to try to get behind Our Daily Rest.”



From left, TD Bank employees Chris Parish, Brianna Lynch, Candice Stephens, Leslie Qualls and Vanessa Woods pose in front of the Seneca branch's “Penny Arcade,” which they hope will be very busy Friday with the bank waiving service charges for using the coin-to-cash technology and matching all coins counted with a charitable donation to Our Daily Rest.

Parish clarified that the coins customers cash in through the Penny Arcade will remain theirs to take home — TD Bank will simply match that amount with a donation to Our Daily Rest — though the bank will also accept donations on top of what customers put into the Penny Arcade.

“We don’t keep their money,” Parish said. “Whatever they put in the machine, they take that with them.”

“They can be from anywhere, any business, any client — it doesn’t matter, there will be no charge,” Parish said. “It will be absolutely free. So if somebody has a big five-gallon bucket full of pennies and they don’t want to roll them — that’d be a good day to bring them.”

TD Bank has other charitable events through the year that involve helping various nonprofit organizations or churches or simply donating time to the community.

“I think it sends a pretty clear message that this is what we want to do and this is the kind of bank we want to be,” Parish said.