

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Peoples Health Honors Champion Toni Wendel at Saints Home Game**

Metairie, La. - The Peoples Health Champions program honored New Orleans resident Toni Wendel, its sixth champion of the 2011-2012 NFL football season, on Sunday, November 6 at the Saints home game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. A Peoples Health Champion is someone who has done something extraordinary after age 65 and proves excellence is achieved through experience.

On May 12, 2011, at age 70, Ilone “Toni” Wendel led a visiting delegation from the American Institute of Architects on a tour of her most recently completed project—a spectacular renovation of the Cotton Mill clock tower in downtown New Orleans. Wendel, owner and president of Olde World Builders and Remodelers, transformed the clock tower from a deteriorating, vacant reminder of bygone grandeur into a breathtaking, four-story residence.

Wendel assumed control of Olde World Builders and Remodelers from her ailing husband in 1989. Although she knew little of the construction business and was raising four young children, she was determined to do everything she could to keep the family’s sole source of income alive. Forced to compete in a male-dominated industry, Wendel broke through barriers and earned the respect of her peers as evidenced by her election as president of the Homebuilders Association board. Increased demand for her construction and remodeling expertise led to bigger projects and new challenges. “I’m 71 and as I’ve aged, I’ve become a more confident, complete person,” says Wendel. Thus, it’s no surprise that the clock tower is Wendel’s best work to date.

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### ***About Peoples Health Champions***

In collaboration with the New Orleans Saints, the Peoples Health Champions Program honors individuals who shatter the myth that ability diminishes after the age of 65 and who prove that excellence is achieved through experience. Nominees must be at least 65 years of age and reside in southeast Louisiana or the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more information about the program, including details on how to nominate someone as a Peoples Health Champion, visit [champions.peopleshealth.com](http://champions.peopleshealth.com). Nominations can be submitted online, or call (877) 712-7320 for a nomination form.

### ***About Peoples Health***

Established in 1994, Peoples Health is a Medicare Advantage organization serving Medicare beneficiaries in southeast Louisiana. The physician-owned company has over 600 employees who help administer and provide a unique approach to wellness, care coordination and support services for plan members. The company is a proud supporter of many social, cultural, athletic and health organizations and holds an accreditation by URAC. For more information about Peoples Health, visit [www.peopleshealth.com](http://www.peopleshealth.com).

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