

For Immediate Release:

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Pana, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Peoples Bank & Trust is proud to recognize retired businessman, Mike Cross, as our 3rd quarter Volunteer of the Quarter. Mike has been a leading light in the community for over forty years. As an avid entrepreneur and sales professional, Mike started several businesses in Pana that helped him raise and support his family as well as contribute to the growth and culture of Pana.

Early in his career, Mike founded Cross Enterprises with his wife, Sue. His most popular local business endeavor was Mike's Pizza. He was also outstanding in his field as a sales professional working within his own company and for Hunter Engineering, which would later employ him to mentor young, up and coming sales professionals and new graduates in the art of the sale.

Since retiring, Mike's entrepreneurial spirit is kept alive in the non-profit sphere as a mentor to young men and women seeking to learn how to run a business. As a volunteer for the Autism and Movement Project (AAMP), Mike has not only volunteered his time to mentor autistic youth in food prep, customer service and cashier accounting, he has also opened up the fully restored Historic Oak Street Station's kitchen and dining area for their use.

Oak Street Station, located at 38 Oak St., is of great historic value to the City of Pana and was bought and restored by Cross when it was in dilapidated condition and saved from demolition. Since restoration, the space has been used as a community theater, museum, gathering place and reunion space. It currently houses the Pana History Museum, which was founded and is curated by Cross.

Mike, a Christian, has been a constant volunteer at his church and throughout the community and is known for his culinary skills on the grill and as a restaurateur, cooking for many benefits over the years. When asked about the Peoples Bank & Trust award, Mike said, "I want to thank my wife and my family for their love and support and I give the glory to God for he has guided my way."

In honor of Mike's volunteer services, Peoples Bank donated to the Pana History Museum and Mike's name will be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.