

For Immediate Release:

For Additional Information Contact:

John Gardner, President & CEO
Phone: (888) 728-1954

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.

Nick Kroenlein and the Hot Rods for Cancer organization has been chosen as our current Volunteer of the Quarter. Nick, with the help of Joe Coleman and Brett Henschen, started the group in 2014 in memory of his father, Kevin Kroenlein, on the 10th anniversary of his passing. Kevin passed away from Esophageal cancer. The group holds a car show every year in downtown Pana and donates the proceeds to St. John's Children's Hospital. They raise money by selling shirts at the show, hosting a cookout and a 50/50 drawing. They usually average around 80 cars and motorcycles each year. They have donated \$4000 thus far and plan to double that amount this year.

Nick is joined by his wife, Amanda, Lyle and Amy Craig, Todd Stark, Kolby Kroenlein, Corey Mason, Mark and Tracy Craig, Allison and Devin Coss, Clint Gelsinger, Chris Johnson and Alan McGlauchlen. They usually walk in the Pana Labor Day parade to promote the car show. The last two years, Nick thought he would spice things up a little and hand out Hot Wheels cars. He made a Facebook post asking what everyone thought of the idea and if they would be interest in making a donation to purchase cars. The response was awesome and he was able to purchase 2000 Hot Wheels cars the first year and 3300 this year. Nick said he was getting donations in the mail, walking through the grocery store and at the baseball diamond. People were very giving for this idea. Since they are a not for profit organization, Nick applied with Mattel to get the cars at a discount. They accepted his applications for the discount, which allowed him to purchase the 2000 cars at almost half the retail cost. The faces of the children and the thanks they got from the parents are truly a life changing experience.

This year's "Hot Rods for Cancer" car show is scheduled for September 29th at 8:00 a.m.

In honor of their volunteer services, Peoples Bank will make a donation to Hot Rods for Cancer and their names 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.