

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.

Ron Sims, Suzi Castle and The Pana Christmas Basket Committee have been chosen as our current Volunteers of the Quarter.

The Christmas Basket Committee helps around 250 families each year. The baskets are packed according to the number of members in each household. The average total cost for the project is around \$8000 per year. There are collections of non-perishable items made at the local schools each year as well as a collection box at Pana News for donations. Cash donations may be made at the local banks or at Pana News.

Ron Sims estimates the program has been helping community families for at least 70 years. He said he has been helping for 53 years, starting as a child with his father. Suzi commented that this is her 37<sup>th</sup> year. They rely on a number of volunteers to help collect items, pack boxes and make deliveries each year.

In honor of their volunteer services, Peoples Bank will make a donation to the Pana Christmas Basket Committee 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.