

Cathleen Nelson named Volunteer of the Quarter by Peoples Bank & Trust

As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize an outstanding community volunteer, who personally exhibits outstanding volunteerism and promotes the improvement of our communities.

Cathleen Nelson has been chosen as our current Volunteer of the Quarter. Cathleen and her husband, Nick, have lived in Waverly for 20 years. They have four children: Claire, Kane, Trent and Clark, who all attend Waverly Schools. Cathleen has always been passionate about children, which led her to accept the Children/Youth Director position at First Baptist Church. For the past four years, she has encouraged the children and youth of Waverly to help others who are in need.

Cathleen loves to help people through volunteering and sees herself as a motivator of many. Taking the youth of Waverly to serve food at Helping Hands Homeless Shelter is one of her favorites. Experiencing a youth's excitement as they place a cup of fruit in a hungry person's hands is something she wishes everyone could see. Also, showing the youth that they can make a difference here in Waverly too, by helping the elderly with yard work, or simply picking up litter around town is some of her summertime activities. Directing children as they pack shoeboxes for Operations Christmas Child is another one of her favorites. "The kids get so excited knowing that the items they picked out are going to help a child in need on the other side of the world. They just love packing and stacking those boxes." she said. Every year she takes a large group of 50+ people, young and old, to Winter Jam, A Christian Concert, in St. Louis. While there, they volunteer for Holt International by collecting sponsorships for children in need all around the world.

She also enjoys organizing and planning events that help offset the cost for families who are in the process of adopting a child. Whether the family is caring for a child in foster care or adopting a child, she tries to help with each placement. To play a part of a child joining their forever family is such an amazing experience.

Cathleen's friends are inspired by her dedication to youth and see the bond she shares with each child in the community. She believes the children can change the world, and she wants to provide them with that opportunity.

In honor of Cathleen's volunteer service, Peoples Bank & Trust has made a donation to the Waverly Food Pantry in her name. Cathleen's name has been placed on a plaque and displayed in the bank's lobby.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Charleston, Tower Hill, 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. Peoples First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.