

For Immediate Release:

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White Hall, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To commend and promote volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community volunteers and organizations that exhibit volunteerism and promote the improvement of our communities. The recipients of these awards are chosen by the employees of the local branch.

Carolyn Camp and Kathy Newingham have been chosen as our Volunteers of the Quarter for the first quarter in 2019.

Carolyn and Kathy are retired English teachers who used art a great deal in their own classrooms in activities such as the Young Authors' Program for which students wrote and illustrated their own books. After Kathy's retirement in 2012, they were glad to become part of the Volunteer Art program started by Pam Painter and Tammy Winters and began working with the North Greene Elementary 4th- 6th grade students. Each class in each grade receives an hour of art instruction once a month. Each month focuses on a different art medium and the techniques of using it: pencil, chalk pastels, cray-pas, watercolor and acrylic painting are used each year. Elements of design and color are also taught along with care and maintenance of art materials. As pottery students themselves, these ladies enjoy working with the students in building clay pieces which are then kiln-fired and painted. Each year builds on the previous skills taught. While there is not always an artist focus, particular artists are brought into lessons and the foundations of what they learned in the lower grades is reinforced.

Carolyn and Kathy are very appreciative of having an art room in which to store materials and have classes. This allows for more time for instruction. They are also appreciative of those who make the program possible through their donations: Christ United Methodist Church, the NGE Parent-Teacher organization, and other organizations and individuals who generously give so the program can continue.

The first North Greene Elementary Art Show was held in the spring of 2013 and has continued annually. This event showcases the work of the student artists in grades K-6 as the all-purpose room is transformed into a small "art museum." Upper elementary students "mat" and prepare their work for display themselves. This year's event will be Wednesday, May 8th, 6-8 pm. The public is invited to attend and refreshments are served. Teachers are also encouraged to take their classes to see the displays the next day. It's great to see the talent of the young ones improve through the years. It is a rewarding culmination of the year's work.

Carolyn and Kathy, for their dedication in providing art instruction to the North Greene Elementary students' grades 4th-6th will benefit from our Volunteer of the Quarter \$250.00 award!

Please join us in congratulating Carolyn and Kathy on this recognition for their contributions! Also, don't forget to attend the art show Wednesday, May 8th from 6 pm to 8 pm.

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 Bank & Trust is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business and farmers in central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with the corporate office in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.