

For Immediate Release:

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Taylorville, 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.

Elli Skultety has been chosen as our Volunteer of the Quarter for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019. After the December 1, 2018 Taylorville tornado, Elli decided to help others who had a lot of tornado damage. She has always wanted to try out string art and thought this would be the perfect opportunity. She asked her Dad to cut some circles out of the fallen trees in her back yard that had been damaged by the storm. She started with 20 circles cut out, but little did she know this would sky rocket to over 200. She began by drawing double-heart designs in the wood. She then took purple and gold string and crossed the strings all around to make a heart. With the help of her friend, Mylie, she began to fill order for about 50 people. Elli and her mother attended a meeting place and started passing them out. Her orders soon jumped to over 200 hearts.

By selling this craft at \$10.00 each, she raised around \$2000 in total. Elli went to Hewittville, where most of the damage occurred and gave the families with damage envelopes containing some money. It wasn't much, but most families were extremely grateful. Elli is glad she decided to do this project and she hopes it really helped a lot of people.

In honor of the Elli Skultety's creative volunteer service to the community, Peoples Bank has made a donation to Land of Lincoln Honor Flight and Elli'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.