

## Peoples Bank & Trust Volunteer of the Quarter Paula Rose

As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize community volunteers who personally exhibit outstanding volunteerism and promote the improvements of our community.

Paula Rose was nominated and has been chosen as the current Peoples Bank & Trust Volunteer of the Quarter.

When contacted about the Volunteer award, Paula said, "I am both humbled and honored to be nominated as Volunteer of the Quarter by Peoples Bank & Trust. I guess you could say I have always been a volunteer." When Paula was in grade school, she 'Volunteered' her mom to make three dozen cupcakes. Her mom worked a full time job, but Paula didn't think twice about raising her hand in class. Also as a child, Paula would bring home unexpected children because her grandma lived with them and she always had cookies or cupcakes and milk for after school treats. So it is just in her DNA.

Paula noted that there are so many wonderful people in Waverly willing to meet the needs that exist. She has experienced this first hand, time and time again, for so many reasons: The Old Fashioned Picnic, the Sesquicentennial, personal tragedy, unexpected accidents, hungry children, face masks for Covid. The list goes on. There are so many that give of their time and money.

When asked to list some of the volunteer efforts she has been involved in, Paula replied that since learning how to sew at the age of 50, she has made several quilts to be auctioned for worthy causes. Her partner in crime has been Pat Martin, who taught her everything she knows about quilting. This sewing came in handy when the pandemic hit. The first request they received for masks was for the EMS folks here in town. Then it snowballed. It has kept her busy since March. To date, Paula has sewn and donated about 1100 face masks. Many other sewers in town have also sewn and donated masks. Carol Outain made hundreds of masks and left them at the post office. Kathy Gaillard teamed up with Paula to sew a mask for every student, Pre K-12, for the beginning of the year. Some people insisted on making a donation for the masks, and that goes to the C2 Coalition to help feed kids during the summer and on the weekends. Paula has been delivering summer meals since the program started and occasionally provides the food and pack the bags also. She has had time to do this since retirement left her free to drive around during the weekdays to deliver.

Another cause that Paula has been involved with is helping the Homeless in Springfield, IL. One day she just happened to see a video about the homeless and she wanted to learn more. Paula grew up in Springfield and it broke her heart to realize that people were sleeping on the cold concrete. She became involved with this group. Mary Jackson and the good people at Waverly Methodist Church helped in getting a place where people could process plastic bags and make sleeping mats for the homeless. They would sometimes have 18 or more people at our weekly meetings. People took home bags and mats to work on between our weekly get-together. Paula is not sure exactly how many mats they were able to donate before the pandemic shut down their meetings, but without these wonderful people giving their

time to the project, it wouldn't have happened. The group is trying to find ways to continue with the mat making even though they can't meet in person. They will soon be meeting with a group from the Jacksonville office of BCBS to teach them about mat making. For the last few months, the focus has been on mask making.

Paula said, "Waverly, for me, has been a "Good Place to call home'. Since coming here to teach in 1982, I've met and worked with so many wonderful, giving people. Thank you for this honor. It has touched my heart greatly. I wish to name the C2 Coalition to be the recipient of the monetary gift. Thanks to Peoples Bank & Trust for both the honor and the donation in my name."

In addition to the monetary donation, Paula's name will be placed on a plaque displayed in the Bank 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 customers, small businesses, and farmers in Central Illinois. Peoples First Bancshares, Inc. with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.