

For Immediate Release:

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Charleston, 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 individuals who have exhibited a commitment to community service through volunteer work.

Peoples Bank & Trust has selected Eric Gerdes of Charleston as a 2022 Volunteer of the Quarter. Eric has been very active in the sports community with his children. He has been a JFL coach the last 8 years and is still going strong. Alongside football, you can find Eric coaching in the recreation department's softball and basketball programs. The last 2 seasons and this upcoming season, Eric has filmed CHS Varsity games from the end zone and JV games from the press box. Eric states that the high school program helps provide him with so much insight to coaching at his level that this is a way he has been able to give back their program as well.

He spend over 150 hours at the field every season, and another 150 hours watching film, game planning, preparing equipment, and administrative duties. This is all in a 10-week span typically.

Eric say's his goals are simple: teach young players how to SAFELY play the game, while treating them with the utmost respect, learn how to work hard while having fun, and be an outstanding person at home, school, and your community.

In the future, he hopes to continue coaching JFL and find some Rec Department opportunities. I also intend to get more involved with the CHS music department and performing arts clubs this year.

Peoples Bank and Trust is honoring Eric for his community service with a donation to The Coles County Sports. His name has been added to a Volunteer of the Quarter plaque, which is displayed

in the bank's lobby. Eric is the 48th volunteer recognized by the Charleston Branch of Peoples Bank and Trust.

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 businesses and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.