

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Pana, 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 an outstanding community member for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Pana Jr. High Softball Organization has been chosen as the Peoples Bank & Trust Volunteers of the Quarter.

The Pana Jr. High Softball organization was founded back in 2017 when it was approved by the Pana School Board as a Jr. High Sport with the stipulation that the program was to be 100% privately funded. Since the adoption of the program up until 2022, the program relied upon private donations as well as business donations to keep the program running. It takes approximately \$3000 per season to keep it going as the program had to pay for their own practice equipment, field maintenance, umpires, balls, etc. It was also the parents' responsibility to get the players to the games. The program also relied upon the volunteering of individuals to assist in the program. The funding was accomplished through the selling advertisement signs, private donations and fundraising from the players themselves as they continued to practice and go to school.

The softball program is a great opportunity for young girls that have a desire to play the game, and those that are wanting to learn the game, in a school setting along with their peers. The girls are taught the fundamentals of the game as well as how to be a good team player. We teach not only the game but life lessons along the way. We work in a team atmosphere all the time and teach what it is like to work together to reach a common goal. It is a great bonding experience for these young ladies in a different way than what they have seen before. If it wasn't for the volunteering of several in the community as well as the private and business donations and the hard work and dedication of the girls to work hard, go to school, get good grades and fundraise all the way, this program would not have been possible.

In honor of the teams and supporters volunteer services, Peoples Bank has made a monetary donation to the Pana Jr. High Softball Organization and a plaque with their name will be placed on display at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Waverly, Morrisonville, Palmyra, White Hall and Springfield. 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.