

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 outstanding volunteerism and promote the improvement of our communities. The recipients of these awards are chosen by the employees of the local branch.

The North Greene Educational Foundation has been chosen as our Volunteers of the Quarter for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023.

The idea for the North Greene Educational Foundation began in February 2017 when a group of North Greene citizens met to discuss ways to support the North Greene Schools. Several citizens continued to meet and discuss ways to raise funds to fulfill needs for academic programs and materials that were outside the district's regular budget. The original Board of Directors included seven (7) voting members:

Chair – Kim (Randall) Fansler  
Vice-Chair - Penny (Haskell) Eilers  
Secretary – Cheri (Harp) Madson  
Treasurer – Carl Moran

Voting members:

Catherine Williams  
Michael Painter  
Jeff Fansler

Voting members were increased to nine (9) in 2019 with the addition of Colby Brooks and Thomas Giller. In 2021, Pamela Keller and Thomas Piper replaced Kim Fansler and Penny Eilers and Todd Pinkerton Riegel joined the Board.

To generate funds, NGHS Alumni were invited to join the organization by paying a \$10.00 annual membership fee. The membership drive provided sufficient funding to file paperwork for 501c3 status. North Greene Educational Foundation officially became a not-for-profit organization in November of 2017.

Once the Teacher Grant Program was established, NGEF Board members looked for additional ways to support academic programs. Further discussions with community members, school personnel, local employers, and Lewis and Clark Community College administrators revealed a need for programs that offered North Greene High School students a way to be employable immediately after graduation from high school. The Board of Directors determined a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program would benefit the students and the community. NGEF, NG CUD #3, and Lewis and Clark Community College developed a partnership to bring the plan to fruition. NGEF received a \$10,000.00 grant from the Tracy Family Foundation to offer scholarships to qualified high school students participating in the 16-week CNA class, and the

first class of 10 North Greene High School students completed the program in December 2018. A fall semester CNA class has been taught at North Greene every year since, except for 2020 due to COVID.

NGEF's CNA Program has expanded and is now a NGEF Vocational Education Support Program. This program provides financial support for vocational courses, which include tuition for dual-credit CNA and vocational classes and classroom supplies for CNA, welding and construction classes.

The North Greene Educational Foundation continues to support academic programs within the North Greene Community Unit District #3 that are beyond the scope of the regular budget. NGEF operates on grants, donations, and funds generated by an annual golf outing.

In recognition of the work of the members of the NGEF, Peoples Bank is making a donation to NGEF and their name will be placed on a plaque displayed at the Bank. Please join us in congratulating the North Greene Educational Foundation on this well-deserved recognition of their contributions to students of this area.

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 corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.