

For Immediate Release:

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Springfield, 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 Rochelle Phipps as our current Volunteer of the Quarter for her work with Glenwood High School Parent-Teacher Organization (GHS PTO).

The GHS PTO is a relatively new organization of a small group of parents. The 2022-23 school year was their first year in action after a short hiatus. They are now wrapping up their second year, and are proud to say they have held two successful After Prom events and are currently planning their second year of Teacher Appreciation events. Their goal with After Prom is to provide a fun, safe party for GHS students where they are fed, entertained and free to spend time with their friends on one of the most special nights of their high school years. There are loads of entertainment including inflatable obstacle courses, human foosball, laser tag, a hypnotist, a DJ and a mechanical bull, among other things. They have plenty of food, pounds of candy, chocolate fountains, nacho bars and of course pizza. The group also provides fantastic prizes for junior and senior students. This year some of the prizes were a PS5, tickets to major league baseball games, a TV, a mini fridge and spa baskets. It is a really great time as evidenced by ticket sales and the positive feedback we receive from parents, students and teachers.

Phipps noted that the GHS PTO could use help from the community in two important ways to be able to accomplish its goals of planning After Prom and Teacher Appreciation week next year. They need parent volunteers. Currently, given the limited scope of the GHS PTO, the time commitment is minimal and really gears up in the first quarter of the calendar year, when it is time for volunteers to work hard on coordinating food, entertainment, prizes and monetary donations for After Prom. That can be demanding, but we've managed to do it with five parents so far. Two of those parents have graduating seniors this year, so we will be down to 2-3 parents for next year. The more parents that get involved, the lighter the workload is for everyone.

They could not have an After Prom without the massive support from the community. They are humbled and grateful by the outpouring of support this year from local businesses and are hopeful that will continue in the future. The GHS PTO is a great organization with limited time commitments and priceless payoff, knowing that it keeps the kids safe and helps them make memories that will last a lifetime on Prom Night. If you are interested in making a donation or joining the GHS PTO, please email ghspto@bcsd5.org.

Peoples Bank and Trust is honoring Rochelle Phipps for her community service with a donation to the GHS PTO and her name has been added to a Volunteer of the Quarter plaque, which is displayed in the bank's 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 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.