

# NEWS

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## LIBERTY BANK HONORS MARK VICKERY FOR VOLUNTEERISM



*Liberty Bank employee Mark Vickery presents a check to the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation at Paul's & Sandy's Pumpkintown U.S.A. in East Hampton. Mark is this year's chosen Volunteer Hall of Fame inductee and was able to direct \$1,000 from the Liberty Bank Foundation to the organization of his choice. Pictured from left to right: Dan Peszynski; Mark Vickery; Karen Clark; Jill Kelley.*

EAST HAMPTON, CT — Mark Vickery, Vice President of the Small Business Loan Center at Liberty Bank, has been inducted into the Liberty Bank Volunteer Hall of Fame, the bank's highest honor for community involvement by its employees. He received the award from Liberty Bank's CEO and President Chandler J. Howard at an appreciation event held for all Liberty Bank employees.

Vickery started mentoring youth while in college, coaching a middle school football team. In the years since, he has coached 70-75 teams in his hometown of East Hampton, both with and without his own children involved. He joined the Little League board, and has coached baseball, soccer, and basketball over the years, as well as serving on the Parks and Rec commission. He has also been involved with the East Hampton Sports Boosters, and recently became a mentor for the Middletown Mentor Program.

With a huge heart for kids—especially kids who are growing up without a father in the house-- Vickery first learned about giving back to others from his Little League coach. Ever since then, he has been a coach, a role model, and a friend to hundreds of kids. "I don't volunteer, I have fun," said Vickery. "If it's a passion, it's not work. And it makes me whole. You get back tenfold what you give."

“Every one of those kids received something precious from Mark: the knowledge that this man genuinely cared about them,” said Chandler Howard, president and CEO of Liberty Bank.

Mark and his wife Beth are proud parents of a son, Jake, who is currently attending New England College, and daughters Sarah and Rachel, who attend East Hampton High School.

As a new Hall of Famer, Vickery was able to direct a \$1,000 donation from the Liberty Bank Foundation to the nonprofit organization of his choice. Mark’s wife lost her mother to breast cancer in 1992, and since they are close to the Peszynski family, they selected the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation to receive the grant.

The Peszynski family members own Paul’s & Sandy’s Too, a popular garden center and hardware store in East Hampton. They created the foundation in 2009 after losing their mother to breast cancer in 2007. Since then, the Foundation has raised over \$290,000, all of which has been donated to the Middlesex Cancer Center and The Partnership for Breast Care with Hartford Hospital.

Each year, members of the Liberty Bank Volunteer Hall of Fame select a co-worker to be inducted into their group. Candidates for the award are chosen based on their extraordinary service to the community and the depth and longevity of their volunteer involvements.

In 2014, nearly half of all Liberty Bank employees reported spending more than 14,000 hours in volunteer service to 336 local nonprofit agencies. The bank seeks to encourage employee volunteerism through the Volunteer Hall of Fame and a prize drawing from among employees who report their volunteer activity via an online survey. In addition, Liberty offers every one of its employees the opportunity to spend up to four full days of paid release time for community service every year.

Since its inception in 1997, the Liberty Bank Foundation has awarded over \$9 million in grants to nonprofit organizations within Liberty Bank’s market area. The foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for people of low or moderate income by investing in three areas: education to promote economic success for children and families; affordable housing; and nonprofit capacity building. Along with its grantmaking, the foundation strives to foster the convening and collaboration of nonprofits, funders, business, and government to address community issues.

Established in 1825, Liberty Bank is Connecticut’s oldest mutual bank, with more than \$3.9 billion in assets and 48 banking offices throughout the central, eastern, and shoreline areas of the state. As a full-service financial institution, Liberty offers consumer and commercial banking, home mortgages, insurance, and investment services. Named as a “Top Workplace” by the Hartford Courant for four consecutive years, Liberty maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement.

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