

NEWS



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LIBERTY BANK PRESENTS LOCAL YOUTH WITH AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

MIDDLETOWN, CT—

Cheyenne Shannon of Willimantic and **Sanford Bruce, IV**, of Meriden were honored on Monday evening as the recipients of the **2015 Liberty Bank Youth in Action Awards**. The awards were presented at a reception at Liberty Bank in Middletown.



Sanford Bruce, IV, (left) of Meriden and Cheyenne Shannon of Willimantic were presented with the 2015 Liberty Bank Youth In Action Awards by Liberty President and CEO Chandler J. Howard.

Established in 2011, Liberty's Youth in Action Awards are designed to recognize middle and high school students within the bank's market area who have distinguished themselves through volunteering, fundraising, and advocating for nonprofit organizations. Shannon and Bruce were selected from among many students who were nominated for the award by schools and youth organizations in their communities. Each was able to direct a \$1,000 donation from Liberty Bank to a nonprofit organization of their choice.

Liberty Bank President and CEO Chandler Howard praised all of the award nominees for their community service, saying: "As young as you are, you've learned

something very important: that everyone has something to give, no matter how small it is. You don't have to be a brilliant scientist or artist or political leader to change the world. As we've seen today, you don't even have to be an adult. You just have to do two things: care about something and then do something about it."

Cheyenne Shannon, the high school Youth in Action Award recipient, was lauded for raising money and collecting food for homeless individuals in the Windham area. "In first grade, instead of birthday presents, she asked her family and schoolmates to donate to a gift drive for the guests at the Windham NoFreeze Hospitality Center," said Sally Milius, director of GROW Windham, who nominated Shannon for the award. Shannon also served on a team that raised over \$1,400 in the Walk for Autism in Hartford.

In middle school, Shannon was a leader of the Healthy Hands 4-H program, maintaining the school garden and participating in community service projects related to nutrition. She continued that interest in high school, becoming involved in GROW Windham's Windham Youth CORE, which engages high school students in promoting access to healthy food in their community. She also serves as a youth representative in the Windham Community Food Network.

Shannon chose to split her \$1,000 donation from the Liberty Bank Foundation between GROW Windham and Autism Speaks.

Middle school award recipient Sanford Bruce, IV, began volunteering at age 5, when he helped with a cleanup project at New Haven's Long Wharf area. A year later, he became involved with Meriden YMCA, where his favorite volunteer events are the Community Holiday Dinners, where he helps set up and serve food to the less fortunate on Christmas and Thanksgiving. Bruce has also been involved with *Save the Sound*. When he's not busy serving meals or helping the environment, he's playing sports or helping younger athletes hone their soccer skills at the Connecticut Football Club.

Carmen Chaparro of the Meriden YMCA, who nominated Bruce for the award, said, "Sanford enjoys helping others and asks nothing in return. He has great values at a young age and has the ability to teach those values to other children."

Bruce divided his \$1,000 donation from Liberty Bank Foundation between the Meriden Soup Kitchen and the Meriden YMCA.

Liberty Bank President and CEO Chandler J. Howard, himself a longtime volunteer with many awards for community service, praised the award winners and nominees, saying “We want to honor you for everything you’ve done to make people’s lives better. You’ve proven to us that it doesn’t matter how young you are—you CAN make a difference.”

Established in 1825, Liberty Bank is Connecticut’s oldest mutual bank, with \$3.8 billion in assets and 49 banking offices throughout the central, eastern, and shoreline areas of the state. As a full-service financial institution, it offers consumer and commercial banking, home mortgages, insurance, and investment services. Liberty maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement.

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