

# NEWS



June 5, 2014

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## LIBERTY BANK FOUNDATION PRESENTS GRANTS TO FOUR NEW HAVEN NONPROFITS BOOST! Initiative Receives \$20,000



*Liberty Bank President and CEO Chandler Howard presents \$28,000 in grants to New Haven based nonprofit organizations. Left to right: Jack Healy, United Way of Greater New Haven; Sequella Coleman, John Martinez School; Mary Grande, New Reach, Inc.; Mayor Toni Harp, City of New Haven; Chandler Howard; Veronica DeLandro, College Summit Connecticut; Melissa Spear, New England Ecology Project; Sue Weisselberg, New Haven Public Schools*

NEW HAVEN, CT — Liberty Bank Foundation presented \$28,000 in grants to four New Haven nonprofits yesterday. Of that total, \$20,000 was awarded to the citywide BOOST! Initiative. The presentation, which was attended by Mayor Toni Harp and other city, school, and bank officials, took place at John Martinez School, one of 16 city schools that participate in BOOST!

Liberty Bank President and CEO Chandler J. Howard noted that this was the first grant presentation event that Liberty had done in New Haven. “The ribbon cutting of our Church Street office took place just about a year ago, and on that day we gave away almost \$15,000 to local organizations,” he said. “At the time we said that when we enter a new community, we’re not just here to do business—

we're here to do good. That means when Liberty Bank comes to town, the Liberty Bank Foundation comes with it. Today's event is a demonstration of that commitment."

All four of the supported education programs for New Haven children and youth from low or moderate income families.

**College Summit Connecticut** received \$3,000 to support college access and preparation programming. The grant was accepted by executive director Veronica DeLandro.

**New Haven Ecology Project** was awarded \$2,500 to support the Green Jobs Corps Youth Employment Initiative. Melissa Spear of Common Ground High School accepted the grant.

**New Reach, Inc.** (formerly New Haven Home Recovery) received \$2,500 to support the Child Enrichment Program for children living in Life Haven shelter. Mary Grande was on hand to receive the grant.

**United Way of Greater New Haven** was presented with a \$20,000 grant to support the BOOST! Innovation Fund. President and CEO accepted the grant, commenting, "This grant will help us to change the odds for students in the New Haven Public Schools. We're able to do this because the private sector believes in education reform, wants to be a part of it, and wants to help drive innovation."

Launched in 2010, BOOST! is a three-way partnership among New Haven Public Schools, United Way of Greater New Haven, and the City of New Haven. BOOST! helps broker, monitor, and enhance a wide variety of school and community partnerships, ranging from local arts organizations providing after-school enrichment opportunities to mental health clinics providing critical social, emotional and behavioral supports to students. The exact combination of services varies from school to school and is tailored to respond to the unique needs identified by parents, teachers, school leaders, school support staff, and other community stakeholders.

"We were intrigued by BOOST because our foundation has a track record of facilitating successful collaborations, and we understand their power to create positive change," said Chandler Howard, Liberty Bank president and CEO. "We also understand how difficult it can be to align different organizations—especially large ones, as in this case—and get all the oars pulling in the same direction toward a common goal. So we are particularly impressed by the success that BOOST has enjoyed to date."

New Haven Mayor Toni Harp commended Liberty for its support, saying, "Thank you for coming to New Haven as a bank, which is really important. But even more important is that your values are consistent with what we need here. You care about families and individuals with low or moderate



*New Haven Mayor Toni Harp praises Liberty Bank for giving back to the New Haven community.*

incomes. And most important, you kept your word. You did what you said you would do. And it means a great deal to our city.”

In closing, Howard commented, “The Liberty Bank Foundation’s work here in New Haven has just begun. We’ll continue to look for new partners who can further our work of enabling our neighbors at the lower end of the income ladder to climb higher. We’ll also seek to be a partner wherever there’s a need to come together to address community needs. And we’ll continue to invest dollars, time, and expertise to help New Haven residents thrive.”

Since its inception in 1997, the Liberty Bank Foundation has awarded over \$8 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.



*Representatives of the BOOST! Initiative accept a \$20,000 grant from the Liberty Bank Foundation. Left to right: Jack Healy, United Way of Greater New Haven; Sue Weisselberg, New Haven Public Schools; Sequella Coleman, John Martinez School; Mayor Toni Harp, City of New Haven; and Chandler J. Howard, Liberty Bank*

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