

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LIBERTY BANK HONORS EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERS

MIDDLETOWN, CT —

Don Peruta, Resort Finance Loan Manager 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 employee appreciation event held recently for all Liberty Bank employees. In addition, ten other employees who volunteered during 2012 won a drawing allowing them to direct \$250 donations to their favorite charities.

Peruta spends about 600 hours annually volunteering for organizations in Middletown and in his hometown of Southington. He is a volunteer coach for the Southington North Baseball team and the Southington Knights Travel Football team, and has held various other positions in these organizations, including board member and treasurer. Peruta is also a member of the board of directors of the Rockfall Foundation in Middletown and a committee member for the Mill Foundation for Kids in Southington.

As a new Hall of Famer, Peruta was able to direct a \$1,000 donation from the Liberty Bank Foundation to the nonprofit organization of his choice, The Mill Foundation for Kids. He said, "The Mill Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of sick children, one smile at a time. They give comfort to kids fighting pediatric illnesses and their families by providing toys, video games, arts and crafts, and other gifts that will make their day brighter."

Liberty Bank Volunteer Hall of Fame members are selected each year by current Volunteer Hall of Fame members. Candidates for the award are chosen based on their extraordinary service to the community and the depth and longevity of their volunteer involvements.



*Liberty Bank employee Don Peruta (left) presents a check for \$1,000 to Brian Taylor, president and founder of the Mill Foundation for Kids. Peruta was able to direct the donation because he was selected as the 2012 inductee into the Liberty Bank Volunteer Hall of Fame for his outstanding commitment to community service.*

“Don exemplifies the volunteer spirit that has traditionally been a hallmark of Liberty Bank employees,” said Chandler Howard, president and CEO of Liberty Bank. “Coaching one youth sports team is a major commitment; coaching two of them verges on the heroic. This is a person we’d all be proud to have for a neighbor—and I’m proud to have him as a colleague.”

Ten Liberty employees also won the privilege of directing \$250 donations to their favorite charities. Their names were drawn from among the participants in the bank’s 2012 Community Involvement Survey, in which employees are asked to report on their volunteer activities for the year. The ten employees who won, and their selected charities, included:

**Kathy Aubrey-Bergonzi**, Plainville Office: PARC

**Sue Bradley**, Deposit Operations Department: Labs4Rescue

**John O’Brien**, Wallingford Office: Master’s Manna

**Lynne Wainman**, Commercial Real Estate Department: St. James Episcopal Church

**Johanna Coburn**, Glastonbury Office: St. Vincent de Paul Middletown

**Donald Fodaski**, Finance Department: St. Vincent de Paul Middletown

**Peta-Gaye Manuel**, Main Office: FoodShare and March of Dimes

**Stacie Kresse**, Niantic Office: Care and Share of East Lyme

**Darlene DeLaura**, Gateway Plaze Office, Willimantic: Waterford/East Lyme Animal Shelter

**Krista Saraceno**, Business Banking Administration: Amazing Grace Food Pantry

In 2012, 178 Liberty employees volunteered more than 17,218 hours of time at 243 local nonprofit agencies. The bank seeks to encourage employee volunteerism through the Volunteer Hall of Fame Award and the survey drawing. In addition, Liberty offers every one of its 630 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 provided over \$7.6 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 the areas of preventive programming for children and families, affordable housing, and nonprofit capacity building. In addition, the Foundation is providing support to address basic human needs during these difficult economic times. 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 over \$3.6 billion in assets and 48 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. Rated outstanding by federal regulators on its community reinvestment efforts, Liberty maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement.

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