

# NEWS

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

April 8, 2009

Contact: Sue Murphy  
(860) 638-2959 or [smurphy@liberty-bank.com](mailto:smurphy@liberty-bank.com)



## **Forum to Help Local Nonprofits Target Federal Stimulus Funds**

MIDDLETOWN, CT—The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (aka the federal economic stimulus) is expected to bring about \$3 billion to the state of Connecticut. On Thursday, April 23, non-profit agencies from Middlesex and New London Counties can attend a forum in Westbrook where they can learn how to access those stimulus funds for community projects.

Entitled “What Nonprofits Need To Know About the Federal Recovery Act,” the forum is being presented by the Liberty Bank Foundation in cooperation with the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut, the Middlesex County Community Foundation, the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, and the Middlesex United Way. “The economic downturn is placing growing pressure on the non-profit organizations that people count on for vital services in education, housing, health care, and more,” said Sue Murphy, executive director of the Liberty Bank Foundation. “We want to make sure that non-profits in our area understand how the stimulus funds are being allocated and what needs to be done in order to access them. These funds can mean a huge shot in the arm for the important work non-profits are doing in our communities.”

The main speaker for the event will be Shelley Geballe, co-founder of Connecticut Voices for Children. She will present an overview of the \$787 billion Recovery Act, which will provide funding for education, early childhood care, transportation, housing, health, workforce development, arts and culture. The presentation will outline how state and local governments will direct the stimulus funds, and point out opportunities for non-profit organizations to apply for them. Geballe’s presentation will be followed by remarks from Stewart J. Hudson, president of the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation in Meriden, who will highlight the requirements of the Recovery Act with respect to policies, transparency and accountability.

The forum will take place at the Water's Edge Resort and Spa in Westbrook from 1:00 to 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 23. Non-profit representatives interested in attending must register in advance by e-mailing the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut at [jennob@cfsect.org](mailto:jennob@cfsect.org) or the Middlesex County Community Foundation at [janice@middlesexcountycf.org](mailto:janice@middlesexcountycf.org).

The April 23<sup>rd</sup> forum is being presented for the benefit of non-profit organizations in Middlesex and New London Counties. However, the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy is working with other foundations to organize similar forums for non-profits elsewhere in the state: in New Haven on the morning of April 13, in Hartford on the morning of April 14, and in Norwalk on the afternoon of April 17. For more information about the forums, visit [www.ctphilanthropy](http://www.ctphilanthropy) or call the Council at 860-525-5585.

*The Connecticut Council for Philanthropy is a nonprofit association of grantmakers committed to promoting and supporting effective philanthropy for the public good in Connecticut.*

*Since its inception in 1997, the Liberty Bank Foundation has provided over \$5 million in grants to non-profit 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 preventive programming for children and families, affordable housing, and non-profit capacity building. Along with its grantmaking, the foundation strives to foster the convening and collaboration of non-profits, funders, business and government to address community issues.*

###