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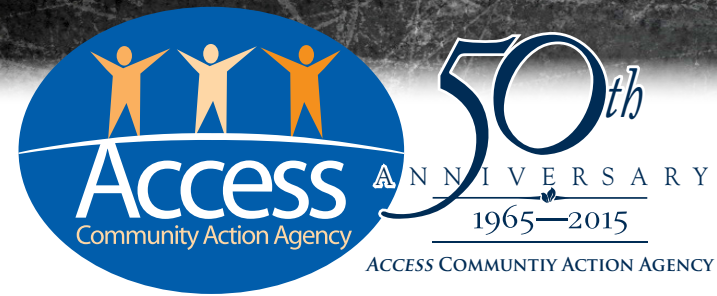


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HONORS PROGRAM



**Facing Poverty
in our Midst:
Past, Present, Future...**

**A Community Forum to Educate,
Engage and Inspire**



April 17, 2015 • 1:00-4:00pm
Konover Auditorium
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

10 Years

20 Years

30 Years

40 Years

50 Years

Our Community Vision

Windham and Tolland Counties will be a region whose residents and communities have and effectively use the resources necessary to ensure that all of its families and individuals thrive.

Our Mission

To create opportunities that empower people and communities to achieve and sustain economic stability.

Strategic Commitments

Meet Basic Human Needs

Build Capacity to Accumulate
Income and Assets

Foster Positive
At-Risk-Youth Development

Mobilize Community Stakeholders to Effectively Advocate and Act

Our Values

Compassion
Empowerment
Respect
Synergy
Accountability
Excellence

Facing Poverty in Our Midst: Past, Present Future... A Community Forum to Educate, Engage, and Inspire

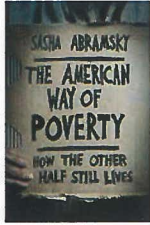
April 17, 2015

Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut

Forum Schedule

1:00 – 1:10	Registration	Atrium
1:10 – 1:15	Welcome Remarks: Peter DeBiasi, President/CEO Access Community Action Agency	Konover Auditorium
1:15 – 2:30	Keynote Address: Sasha Abramsky Author: <i>The American Way of Poverty</i>	Konover Auditorium
2:30 – 2:45	Break/Book Signing	Atrium
2:45 – 3:15	Documentary Premiere: Even Here, Stories of 50 Years of Access Fighting Poverty in Eastern CT	Konover Auditorium
3:15 – 4:00	Panel Discussion: <i>The Challenge of Poverty in Eastern Connecticut</i> Moderator: Dr. Scott Harding, Associate Dean for Academics University of Connecticut School of Social Work Panelists: Roderick Bremby, Commissioner, DSS Peter S. DeBiasi, President/CEO, Access Community Action Agency Mae Flexer, State Senator Don Williams, Former State Senator	Konover Auditorium
4:00	Reception	Reception Room

Biographies



Sasha Abramsky, Author of *The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives*

Sasha Abramsky is a widely published freelance journalist, whose work has appeared in the Nation, the American Prospect, the Atlantic, New York Magazine, the New Yorker online, Salon, and many other publications in the US and UK. He is a senior fellow at the Demos think tank and teaches writing, part-time, at the University of California at Davis. *The American Way of Poverty* is Abramsky's sixth book. Fifty years after Michael Harrington published his groundbreaking book *The Other America*, chronicling the lives of those living in poverty during the Age of Affluence, poverty in America is back with a vengeance. Abramsky's book delves into the stories of the long-term chronically poor and the new working poor and describes the shattered lives behind the overwhelming poverty statistics. Abramsky brings a powerful indignation and viable solutions to the topics of poverty and inequality in America. *The American Way of Poverty* was listed by the New York Times as amongst the 100 Notable Books of 2013. Abramsky lives in Sacramento, California with his wife and their two children.



Bradley Clift, Producer/Director of *Even Here*

Photographer Bradley Clift came to Access as a 2014 Fellow of the Encore Hartford program of the University of Connecticut. His work has appeared in hundreds of publications and web sites around the globe, including Time, Newsweek, Paris Match, Stern, The New York Times and Los Angeles Times newspapers, Smithsonian magazine and NationalGeographic.com. Clift's images have been exhibited globally not only as a World Press photo winner, but also as a multiple Pictures of the Year award winner for over 20 years. His images have been displayed internationally as part of the *Day in the Life* photography book projects and one of his pictures



graces the cover of *A Day in the Life of California*. Accolades include being named National Newspaper Photographer of the Year; winning the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for International Photojournalism; and The Kodak Crystal Eagle Award for Impact in Photojournalism for decades-long work on Addiction in America, a subject for which Clift was a finalist for the 2003 Pulitzer Prize. In addition, Brad's Human Rights coverage from his 25-year photojournalism career was recently acquired by the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut, special collections division. It includes his images, notes, personal papers, published stories and speeches at major institutions around the country.



Scott Harding, PhD., Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of CT School of Social Work

Moderator of the discussion panel is Scott Harding, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Community Organization. Dr. Harding teaches courses in community organization, macro foundation practice, and teaches a special topics course on war, militarism and imperialism. His areas of specialization include community organization and practice, poverty, social problems and social welfare policy, political advocacy, and war, militarism, and imperialism. His research interests include Community Organizing, Globalization, War and Militarism, Political Social Work, and Forced Migration.



Commissioner Roderick Bremby, CT Department of Social Services

Roderick L. Bremby was appointed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) in March 2011. The Governor's nomination of Mr. Bremby for a four-year term as agency head was unanimously confirmed by the Connecticut Senate and he was reappointed for a second term in January, 2015. Under Commissioner Bremby, DSS administers and delivers a wide variety of services to children, families, adults, people with disabilities and elders, including health care coverage, child support, long-term care and supports, energy assistance, food and nutrition aid, and program grants. The agency is currently serving more than 950,000 individuals in 600,000 households. During his first four years at the Connecticut Department of Social Services, Commissioner Bremby has directed initiatives in such areas as health care program restructuring, modernization of technology and business processes for improved client service delivery, and implementation of budget and legislative program changes. Commissioner Bremby is a member of several executive panels in state government, including the Governor's Health Care Cabinet, Access Health CT Board of Directors, Health Technology Work Group, Basic Health Plan Work Group, Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, and Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap. Commissioner Bremby joined Connecticut state government after an extensive public-sector career in Kansas and Texas, and academic service at the University of Kansas.



**Peter S. DeBiasi, President/CEO,
Access Community Action Agency**

Peter DeBiasi has over 35 years of experience working in the nonprofit human services field as both a direct service provider and an administrator. After earning his Bachelor degree from Boston College, his journey has included serving the homeless and teaching high school in inner-city Boston, earning a Master of Education degree with an administrative focus from Harvard University, directing large-scale annual and capital fundraising campaigns, serving as Vice-President

of United Community & Family Services and as Chief Professional Officer for the Mystic Community Center and The CT Council of Family Service Agencies.

For the past 10 years, Peter has served as the President/CEO of the Access Community Action Agency, a federal and state designated anti-poverty agency that has been providing service to residents of eastern CT for 50 years. Additionally, he is the appointed Co-Chair of Gov. Malloy's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services; and the President of the Board of The CT Association of Nonprofits, which has a membership of over 450 organizations statewide.



State Senator Mae Flexer

State Senator Mae Flexer was sworn-in to the Connecticut State Senate in January 2015. From 2008 to 2014, Mae served three terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives serving the 44th Assembly District towns of Killingly and Plainfield. Mae has been one of the legislature's strongest proponents regarding family and domestic violence. In 2012, Mae was named a Coalition Crusader by the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence and was presented the Community Service Award by The Access Community Action Agency. In 2010, she was awarded the Community Provider Award

by United Services for her efforts to change laws affecting family and domestic violence. Protecting the character of a community is also a top priority for Mae. In 2009, she fought for legislation providing economic aid to save Connecticut's last remaining dairy farms. The Connecticut Farm Bureau named Mae a 2011 Legislator of the Year. In 2010, Mae led the state legislature in approving a new law ensuring that the driver's licenses of members of the military will not expire while they are on active duty and stationed out-of-state. Mae has also received the Children's Champion Award from the Northeast CT School Readiness Council and was the recipient of the Chris Murphy Award from the Connecticut Young Democrats. Mae has been member of the Access Board of the Directors for ten years.



Donald E. Williams, Jr., Former State Senator

Don Williams served as State Senator representing Northeast Connecticut from 1993 to 2014. In 2004, he was elected by fellow senators to serve as president pro tempore, the highest-ranking legislator in the General Assembly, a position he held until his decision to not seek re-election last year. As Senator, Williams spearheaded a variety of initiatives in the areas of campaign finance reform, ethics reform, protection of children and environmental protection and preservation. Shortly after his election in 1993 he authored legislation creating the first enterprise corridor zones in rural areas to help attract and retain jobs in northeastern Connecticut. This program allowed rural towns in need of economic development to utilize the same economic development benefits that had been provided in the past to certain urban centers. Williams is a strong supporter of higher education, including the UCONN 2000 and UCONN 21st Century initiatives that dramatically improved the buildings and campus of the University of Connecticut. In addition, he supported the CSU 2020 program to provide the same support for the state university system. Williams now serves the Connecticut Education Association as the Deputy Director of Policy, Research and Reform.

Thank You

to our July 2014 – June 2015 Board of Directors!

The Access Community Action Agency Board of Directors consists of dedicated volunteers who generously donate their time and talent in service of the local community. They represent the region's towns, private businesses, organizations, and constituent groups.

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 Jessica Sacilowski, Vice Chair
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Thank You

for 50 Years of Leadership

Past Executive Directors and Board Chairs

Executive Directors

Present - 2004	Peter S. DeBiasi, President/CEO	1986 - 1974	Leon J. Rioux
2004 - 2001	Rocco R. Tricarico	1974 - 1973	Raymond F. Graham, Acting Executive Dir.
2001 - 2000	Anita B. Connor, Acting Executive Dir.	1973 - 1972	Leroy F. Moore, Sr.
2000 - 1988	Kerrie Jones Clark	1972 - 1970	George Wallis
1988 - 1987	Gail R. Hayter, Acting Executive Dir.	1970 - 1969	Marshall Gibson
1987 - 1986	Doris M. Adams	1969 - 1965	William Olds

Board Chairs

Present - 2013	Tammy Miner	1986 - 1984	David Talbot
2013 - 2009	Mary A. DeMarco	1984 - 1980	Ron Gingerich
2009 - 2006	Rusty Lanzit	1980 - 1978	Jacqueline Putman
2006 - 2004	Carol Kraus	1978 - 1976	Lillian Pitschmann
2004 - 2002	John Patton	1976 - 1975	Jean DeVeau
2002 - 2000	Mary Lou DeVivo	1975 - 1974	Herbert Goldstone
2000 - 1998	Robert A. Brex	1974 - 1972	Thelma Carpenter
1998 - 1996	Alvin P. Ridgeway, Jr.	1972 - 1971	Don Nickell
1996 - 1995	Dianne E. Williams	1971 - 1969	Unknown
1995 - 1993	Joan M. Martuscello	1969 - 1968	Rev. Edward E. Chipman
1993 - 1991	Margery Brannigan	1968 - 1965	Unknown
1991 - 1987	Dorayne Carter		
1987 - 1986	Robin Brown		



10 Years

20 Years

30 Years

40 Years

50 Years



1964

- > **1964:** President Lyndon B. Johnson Signs the Economic Opportunity Act
- > **1965:** The Greater Willimantic Human Rights Council was incorporated as Windham Area Community Action Program, Inc. (WACAP) serving the greater Windham area (Willimantic) and part of Tolland County
- > **1968:** Quinebaug Valley Action Committee was incorporated to include both service areas as one with main office on 796 Main Street, Willimantic

- > **1970:** OEO Instruction 6302-1 establishes funding of community action agencies (CAAs) and programs
- > **1972:** Main office relocated to 100 Main Street in Danielson, second floor of the Danielson Surplus Center building
- > **1974:** Community Service Act provides funding grants and oversees the activities of CAAs
- > **1975:** VISTA program developed placing 11 volunteers in the community
- > **1976:** WACAP purchased current office in Danielson to accommodate the increased staff, Weatherization program implemented
- > **1977:** Women, Infants and Children Program implemented



1965

- > **1978:** Opened outreach office on 810 Main Street in Willimantic. Energy Assistance Program developed, no longer a "loan" basis program. Big Brothers/Big Sisters program implemented
- > **1980:** All of Tolland County was added to the WACAP service area, CACFP implemented
- > **1981:** Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Act provides U.S. federal funding for CAAs and other programs



1976

- > **1984:** WACAP opened an Emergency Shelter and was the only shelter available in the area

- > **1993:** Government Performance and Results Act establishes strategic planning and performance measurement for CAAs
- > **1994:** Six National Goals, CAAs to provide outcome measures to monitor success
- > **1994:** WACAP changed its name to The ACCESS Agency, Inc. and relocated to current main office in Willimantic on 1315 Main Street
- > **1995:** Entrepreneurial Center Opens
- > **1998:** Reauthorization of CSBG Act to provide assistance to States and local communities
- > **2001:** Information Memoranda 49 added to CSBG to emphasize results-based, client-focused accountability among Federally-funded domestic assistance programs



1984



1994

- > **2006:** Groundbreaking for Access Senior Housing of Willington (ASHoW)
- > **2007:** Crossroads opens for DCF referred adolescents transitioning to Independent living
- > **2009:** Serve America Act expanded the AmeriCorps volunteer service program
- > **2010:** Groundbreaking for Access Senior Housing of Franklin (ASHoF)
- > **2012:** The Windham Hour Exchange begins, strengthening community connections



2015

- > **2015:** Low Income Housing Program begins renovating multi unit homes with opportunities for low income eligible people to buy or rent





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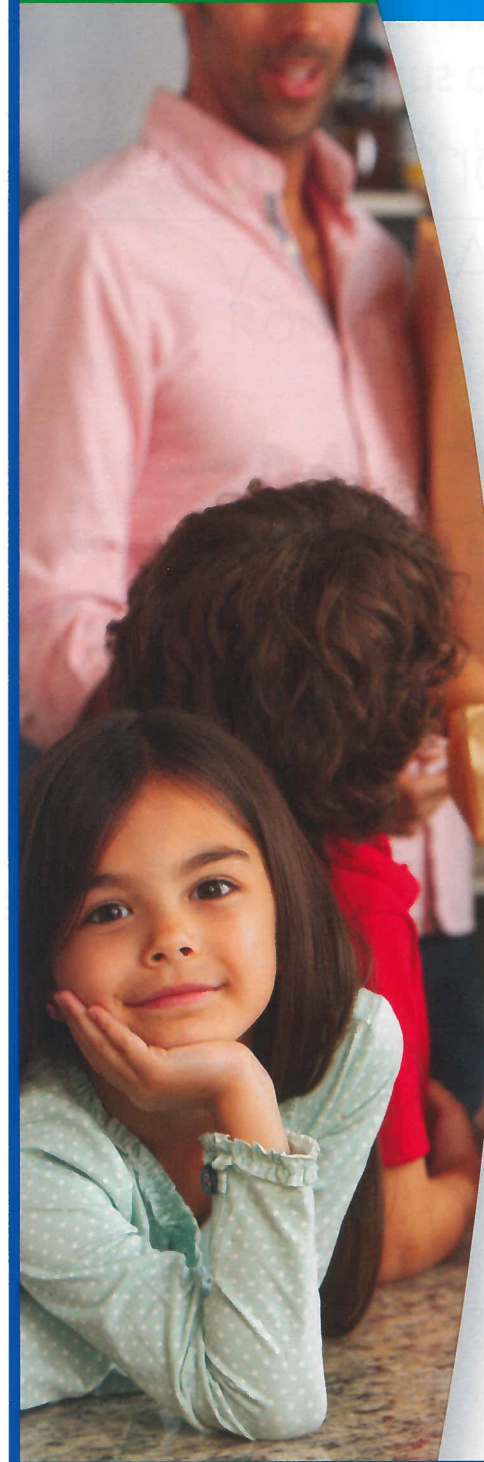
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ANN GRUENBERG, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Education at
Eastern CT State University;
former Board Member of
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*Congratulations to our community partner,
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**TOGETHER WE ARE CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE
THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
OF THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE.**



Our Locations:

Danielson (860) 774-7501
Norwich (860) 885-1308
Putnam (860) 963-7917
Willimantic (860) 450-7471

**School-Based
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Get involved...



Make a difference!



You Can Help!

Throughout Eastern Connecticut, nonprofit organizations are working tirelessly to meet the needs of our community. **They need your help!** Please contact them today to volunteer, donate, and support their important work.

Organization	Location	Mission/purpose	Website	Phone
Access Community Action Agency	Willimantic, Danielson	Create opportunities for people and communities to achieve and sustain economic stability in Windham and Tolland Counties	accessagency.org	860-450-7400
Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center	Willimantic	Dedicated to the survival of homeless adults who are in the Windham Region	windhamnofreeze.com	860-450-1346
Channel 3 Kids Camp	Coventry/ Andover	Provide fun year-round opportunities to children of all abilities, families, & communities	channel3kidscamp.org	860-742-2267
Vernon Regional Adult Based Education	Vernon	Empower students with the knowledge and tools necessary to succeed both personally and professionally in a technologically advanced society	vrabe.org	860-870-6000 ext. 139
Thames Valley Community Action (TVCCA)	New London County	Improve the overall well-being of individuals and families in need within our service	tvcca.org	860-889-1365
TEEG	North Grosvenordale	Strengthen the local community by empowering individuals to live independently; strengthening families to live respectfully; engaging the community to work collaboratively	teegonline.org	860-923-3458
CLICK	Windham	Education and training to improve the health of under-served populations; maintaining a licensed food preparation facility	Clickwillimantic.com	860-455-8395
Windham Area Interfaith Ministry	Windham	Free redistribution of clothing and household goods; energy assistance; adult mentoring	Waimct.org	860-456-7270
Windham Regional Community Council	Windham	Improve health and social well-being of the residents of Windham and Tolland Counties	Wrcinc.org	860-423-4534
Grow Windham	Windham	Dedicated to promoting access to healthy food in the Windham region through support of community food projects	Growwindham.org	860-423-4534 ext. 328
Covenant Soup Kitchen	Willimantic	Serving breakfast and lunch at no charge six days a week	Covenantsoupkitchen.org	860-423-1643
Holy Family Home and Shelter	Willimantic	Home and shelter for mothers and children	Holyfamilywillimantic.org	860-423-7719
The Cornerstone Foundation	Vernon	Soup kitchen, overnight shelter, clothing bank, community center	Cornerstone-rockville.org	860-871-1823
Tri-Town Shelter Services	Vernon	Emergency shelter for displaced families and adults	Tri-townshelterservices.org	860-875-9702
Hockanum Valley Community Council	Vernon	Meeting human service needs in Vernon and Tolland County; food pantry, transportation, behavioral health	Hvcchelps.org	860-872-7727

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