Special thanks to our partners at the University of Connecticut for making our event possible!

THOMAS J. DODD RESEARCH CENTER

UCONN STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMUNITY OUTREACH

UCONN 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
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  Konover Auditorium
Access Community Action Agency
1:15 – 2:30  Keynote Address:
Sasha Abramsky  Konover Auditorium
Author: The American Way of Poverty
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:
The Challenge of Poverty in Eastern Connecticut  Konover Auditorium
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

4:00  Reception  Reception Room
Biographies

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

Sasha Ambransky 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 Ambransky’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. Ambransky’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. Ambransky 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. Ambransky 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 2006 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.

Tammy Miner, Chair
Jessica Sacilowski, Vice Chair
Veronica Gomez, Secretary
Douglas Cutler, Treasurer
April Burke
Mae Fleser
Gregory Haddad
Olga Kurnyk-Ezis
Gregory Lewis
Arka Mikel
Robert Miller
Rosemary Negron
Patricia Pheanious
Marina Rodriguez
Dolly Von Husen

Thank You
for 50 Years of Leadership
Past Executive Directors and Board Chairs

Executive Directors
Present - 2004  Peter S. DeBiasi, President/CEO
2004 – 2001  Rocco R. Tricarico
2001 – 2000  Anita B. Connor,
             Acting Executive Dir.
2000 – 1988  Kerrie Jones Clark
1987 – 1986  Doris M. Adams

1986 – 1974  Leon J. Rioux
1974 – 1973  Raymond F. Graham,
             Acting Executive Dir.
1972 – 1970  George Wallis
1969 – 1965  William Olds

Board Chairs
Present – 2013  Tammy Miner
2013 – 2009  Mary A. Demarco
2009 – 2006  Rusty Lanzit
2006 – 2004  Carol Krause
2004 – 2002  John Patton
2002 – 2000  Mary Lou De Vivo
2000 – 1998  Robert A. Brex
1996 – 1995  Dianne E. Williams
1995 – 1993  Joan M. Martuscello
1993 – 1991  Margery Brannigan
1991 – 1987  Dorayne Carter
1987 – 1986  Robin Brown

1986 – 1984  David Talbot
1984 – 1980  Ron Gingerich
1980 – 1978  Jacqueline Putman
1978 – 1976  Lillian Pitschmann
1976 – 1975  Jean DeVeau
1975 – 1974  Herbert Goldstone
1974 – 1972  Thelma Carpenter
1972 – 1971  Don Nickell
1971 – 1969  Unknown
1968 – 1965  Unknown

CHARTER OAK CREDIT UNION
We are proud to support
Access Community Action Agency
www.charteroak.org
> 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

> 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

> 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

> 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: Low Income Housing Program begins renovating multi unit homes with opportunities for low income eligible people to buy or rent
We are proud to support Access Community Action Agency

For additional information about the firm, please visit www.rlawpc.com or contact:

Jack Horak
(860) 240-1077
jhorak@rlawpc.com

One Financial Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 278-1150

234 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 777-8008

65 LaSalle Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 232-6565

We brighten lives in more ways than one.

Our support of Access Community Action Agency is just one shining example.
ANN GRUENBERG, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education at Eastern CT State University;
former Board Member of Access Community Action Agency

Savings Institute
BANK & TRUST
579 North Windham Road
North Windham, CT 06256

Housing Enterprises, Inc.
Creative Housing Solutions
and Historic Preservation

David Berto
Phone: (860) 741-0837
51 College Street
Enfield, CT 06082
Mobile: (860) 916-7216
email: dberto@housingenterprises.com
internet: www.housingenterprises.com

Congratulations to our community partner,
The Access Agency!

TOGETHER WE ARE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE
THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
OF THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE.

Our Locations:
Darien (860) 774-7301
Norwich (860) 883-1202
Putnam (860) 963-7917
Willimantic (860) 450-7471

School-Based Health Centers:
Putnam Middle School
(860) 928-6071

Eastern Savings Bank
Edith Prague
Landons Tire Inc.
Rawson Materials
Mary A. DeMarco

Family Resource Services, LLC
Putnam Plastics Corporation
Workers’ Compensation Trust

JKS Electric, LLC
Lee Terry
Accu Accounting
Financial Services, LLC
www.accuaccounting.biz
Get involved...

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

**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.

**JOIN OUR Mailing List**
Receive Newsletters and Updates or Make a Donation!

- Yes I would like to contribute to Access in the amount of __________
- No I prefer not to contribute at this time, but would like to receive updates from Access.

My email is: __________

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
Phone: __________________________

- I/We would like our gift to be "Anonymous."
- My/Our gift is __________ in honor of __________________________
  or in memory of __________________________

Payment method: [ ] check [ ] cash

Please make check payable to: Access Community Action Agency and mail to: Karen Adamson, Community Engagement Director 1315 Mair St. Suite 2 Willimantic, CT 06226

*For credit card donations please visit our website www.accessagency.org and donate online.

**DONATE NOW!** Drop off this form with your donation at the Access table in the atrium today!