

POWER OF TOGETHER 2

Southeastern Connecticut

A grassroots organization connecting neighbors and combining resources to make a difference for those in need in our communities

Winter/Spring 2019 Newsletter

Issue 1

Welcome to our inaugural issue:

PoT2 Celebrates 3 Years!

Recipient Spotlight

Tips for Presenters

PoT2 November Social

Power of Together 2 Celebrates 3 Years!

Late in 2015, Mystic/Stonington friends Gae Melford, Karen Stone, Dave Schulz, Barb Silver, and Harry Holt gathered around a dinner table and decided to start a second chapter of Power of Together, based on the original Niantic chapter Deb Fountain founded in 2014, of which Dave was already a member. We were so excited to bring this amazingly simple and effective concept to our area; pooling our resources (\$100 from each member 4 times a year) and offering that combined amount - now over \$10,000 a quarter - to a local worthy cause - WOW! After much planning and outreach, we held our first meeting at the Mystic VFW in April 2016. We were inspired that we already had 44 members, nearly halfway to our goal of 100+. That night we raised \$4,400 for Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality (MASH). We were off and running!

As of December, 2018:

POT2 has donated to 11 organizations:

\$97,950

All 3 CT chapters have donated in total:

\$305,850

Since early 2017, we have hovered around 100 members, and as of November 2018, we have given a total of \$97,950 to very grateful local organizations and worthy causes (see list on [our website](#)). Combined with the Niantic chapter (\$182,300 to date) and the new 2017 Griswold chapter (\$25,600 to date), Power of Together has donated a grand total of \$305,850 throughout eastern Connecticut. Remarkable!

Our February 2019 meeting will officially mark our 3-year anniversary, where **we will surpass the \$100,000 mark**. How exciting! We are so very grateful to all of you generous and caring members. Please spread the word far and wide.



Laura Manfre, pitching Sofia Sees Hope at the August 2018 meeting

2019 Meeting Dates

**NOTE:
NEW LOCATION!**

February 12

May 14

August 13

November 12

All meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at the Mystic YMCA, 1 Harry Austin Dr., Mystic.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

BRING A FRIEND!



PoT2 November 2018

Social/Meeting

"I enjoyed the event last night so much! It was direct, simple, and so good-hearted. It is such a good thing. Well done!"

- Fran Hoffman, new member



Karen Stone (center) with PoT2 presenter Susan Kietzman (right) presents donation to Groton Public Library Director Betty Anne Reiter, July 2016

Recipient Spotlight



Safe Futures (formerly Women's Center of Southeastern CT), was the recipient at our November 2018 meeting, receiving \$10,500 in PoT2 donations. Safe Futures operates two 24-hour hotlines, an emergency shelter, and transitional living programs

for families working to rebuild lives shattered by domestic violence or sexual assault. Safe Futures also provides counseling and advocacy, case management, court support services, support groups, and educational programs for schools and community groups, serving all 21 cities and towns in New London County. PoT2 member Lori Calobrisi offered a compelling pitch about the vital importance of Safe Futures in the lives of so many throughout SE CT. In February 2019 we will hear to which programs they chose to dedicate our PoT2 funds.



From left: Development Coordinator Melissa Zaitchik and Director Kathie Verano, Safe Futures; Dave Schulz; Lori Calobrisi; Karen Stone; Barb Silver

Congratulations!

Tips for Presenters

Identify a charity/worthy cause you care about—make a pitch!

Don't be shy. Go for it.

There is a wide variety of organizations/worthy causes we'd love to support. See our website for a list (not exhaustive) of organizations and for more tips for making a good pitch.

- 1. Know the facts of the organization.** Present the pertinent facts about the organization. Know the details, but keep it succinct.
- 2. Tell the HEART story.** How will the donation impact the people it serves? How does the organization make a difference? Make it resonate.
- 3. Show them the MONEY.** What specifically will the donation support - not too much detail, just enough so people feel comfortable about their donation.
- 4. Practice!** Run through your pitch a few times. Make sure you can deliver it in 5 minutes or less. Try not to read from a script, if possible - connect with your audience.

"Public speaking is definitely out of my comfort zone. Yet I have found my passion for an organization helps the words to flow. By writing down information, visiting the organization, and knowing the faces in the audience are truly kind and caring - the five minutes of allotted time goes quickly and painlessly!" Lori Calobrisi

Remember the rules . . .

The organization/worthy cause must be local, or must impact or involve our local community. You can be a part of the organization or just a supporter of it. You must be a PoT2 member, and write **your own name** (not the organization) on the card that goes in the hat. If chosen, **you** must present - not another PoT2 member or someone from the organization you are supporting. If your organization is not chosen, you can try again next time. Good luck!



Our meetings are brief, friendly, inspirational, and participatory. Bring your ideas, pitch your cause, be part of making a difference!

November Meeting and Social - a good time was had by all! We held our first social gathering at our November meeting at the Union Baptist Church in Mystic, attended by about 70 people. Early birds enjoyed food, drink, and conversation, which was followed by our meeting, including a brief talk by member Chris Shields about a new way to donate online. This was followed by more schmoozing and imbibing, culminating in the announcement of the donation recipient (Safe Futures!) and continued socializing. **THANK YOU** to Dog Watch Café and to everyone who brought food/drink and who came to enjoy our shared PoT2 purpose as well as the great energy of our group. We are grateful!



What is The Cactus Jack Foundation?



The Cactus Jack Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to aid individuals, families, and other charitable organizations in need throughout Southeastern Connecticut. In 2016, Cactus Jack teamed with

Mike Buscetto to create the “Cactus Jack Pediatric Assistance Fund” which provides support to children and young people throughout the region. Click [HERE](#) to read one inspiring story from The Day about how **Power of Together Niantic** provided important help to an individual through Cactus Jack.

If you have an idea about how to help an individual or worthy cause that isn't a non-profit, 501(c)3, they can still be considered by having the donation managed through The Cactus Jack Foundation.

A representative from Cactus Jack will be joining us at our February 12 meeting to tell us more about the Foundation and how we can consider their organization if a non-501(c)3 worthy cause is being considered.

NEWSFLASH!

A fourth Power of Together is being formed in our area. Wow - we are part of movement!

Shoreline Power of Together is being organized in the Waterford area. Their first meeting is February 26. Stay tuned for more information. Go Power of Together!