



Power of Together 2 Meeting Minutes – May 2021 Online Meeting

Overview of May process:

The Power of Together 2 membership had its May 2021 quarterly meeting online due to continuing Covid-19 concerns about an in-person meeting. This was our fifth online meeting. The online process dates were as follows:

9:00 pm, Wednesday, May 12: Deadline to submit name/organization "into the hat" via email

Thursday, May 13: Three pitches chosen and the three submitting members notified.

6:00 pm, Tuesday May 18: Deadline for the three chosen members to submit their 500 maximum word pitch

9:00 am, Wednesday, May 19: Three pitches sent to membership to read and vote on via an online survey link.

6:00 pm, Sunday, May 23: Deadline for members to submit votes (via online survey link).

Monday, May 24: Chosen recipient announced

Report from February 2021 Recipient: FRESH New London

Presentations:

There were 11 members who added their names to the "hat" and the three randomly selected members who submitted pitches were:

- Jessica Morrissey – New London Homeless Hospitality Center
- Spile Lobdell – New England Science and Sailing Foundation
- Tammy de la Cruz – Community Speaks Out

New London Homeless Hospitality Center (www.nlhhc.org) is a place of safety and welcome to adults facing homelessness in southeastern Connecticut. About 600 people will seek help there in 2021. HHC welcomes every individual as their guest at their shelter and Daytime Hospitality Center on State Pier Road in New London. Founded in 2006, HHC collaborates with dozens of public and private programs and agencies to address the underlying causes of homelessness for each person and help him/her find permanent housing as quickly as possible.

New England Science and Sailing Foundation (www.nessf.org) offers a unique education model that empowers students with leadership, teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving skills to ensure academic success. Their STEM-based curriculum includes using marine science, sailing,

power boating, and adventure sports as learning platforms. Their goal is to advance academic opportunities for K-12 students of all backgrounds in both urban and suburban markets.

Community Speaks Out (www.communityspeaksout.org) was founded by four New London County residents in response to the lack of a support system in the community for families facing opioid/heroin addiction. Their mission is to improve the community by providing education, prevention and resources to individuals and their families to access treatment and recovery. In addition to assisting with access to addiction recovery programs, Community Speaks Out advocates for education, community and spiritual support as vital to both substance use disorders prevention and recovery alike.

Outcome:

Ninety-seven (97) members voted online via Survey Monkey and the organization receiving the most votes was the **NL Homeless Hospitality Center**. A total of \$11,800 was given to HHS, representing the second largest gift made by Power of Together 2 in the 5 years since its inception. Overall, Power of Together 2 has donated a total of \$210,900 to 21 nonprofits and worthy causes.

Next Meeting:

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is August 17, 2021. We hope to plan an outdoor, in-person meeting, our first in-person gathering since February 2020. We will keep you posted on those plans!