



Power of Together SECT 2

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2024

Power of Together 2 met at the Mystic YMCA on August 13, 2024 and via Zoom. Barb Silver ran the meeting and introduced Shannon DePerry, who pitched the May recipient, Operation Fresh Start. Shannon reported that Operation Fresh Start will double the number of camper scholarships they provide this summer. She read a letter from a woman who had been a client of Operation Fresh Start and received household items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and clothing. The woman was extremely grateful for the help and described the pleasure and gratitude she experienced through Operation Fresh Start's assistance and support.

Betsy Stevenson made a pitch for the Immigration Advocacy Support Center. PoT2 supported them a few years ago, and now the need is even greater. IASC has been assisting many immigrants from Haiti and there are more clients than they can support. The PoT2 funds will be used to take on more clients and assist them with visas.

Karen Stone made a pitch for the Giving Garden of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC). The Giving Garden provides fresh, highly nutritious food to the food-insecure in New London County. They provided 10,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables last year and an effort has been made to ask the recipients what produce items they will use for meals so that the offerings are culturally appropriate and won't be wasted. The farm uses regenerative farming practices, which enhance soil, promote sequestration of carbon, produce highly nutritious food, support pollinators and promote biodiversity.

Barbara Sahagan made a pitch for Project Oceanology, an organization providing educational opportunities for youth through boat trips on Long Island Sound for ocean sampling and study. The funds would be used to provide more scholarships for disadvantaged youth.

The members voted - IASC received the most votes and is our August 2024 recipient.