



## **Power of Together 2**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Meeting of February 11, 2025**

Debby O'Brien opened the meeting by telling those gathered that Power of Together 2 has donated \$380,000 to more than 30 organizations. PoT2 was formed in April 2016, almost nine years ago. Debby also said the group founders are continuing their work on finding volunteer opportunities for interested members. There will be a PoT2 social gathering before our meeting in May. Carol Ambrosch volunteered to help organize the party.

Doug Rice from the New London Community Meal Center expressed the Center's appreciation for our November 2024 donation. The funds paid for upgraded plumbing and electrical work to service a new dishwashing sanitizer. The decades-old Hobart machine broke, so the donation couldn't have come at a better time, Doug said. The Center is now leasing a machine to wash the dishes used for more than 300 meals a day.

#### **Pitches:**

##### **Shannon DePerry – Giving Closet**

The Giving Closet in North Stonington, started in 2019, provides free, used clothing and other essentials, including diapers and wipes, to anyone in need. The organization also provides toiletry items and socks to the North Stonington schools. The organization is trying to expand their space and needs more shelving units for another room, as well as funds to purchase new clothing, diapers and wipes, and gift items for those unable to buy gifts for their families for the holidays and birthdays. Guests do not need to provide financial information, just their name and phone number. The Giving Closet is run and operated by a staff of volunteers.

##### **Jen Daly-McFadden – Girls on the Run**

Girls on the Run is an after-school program for girls in grades 3-8. The girls train with volunteer coaches to run a 5k. The coaches combine this physical activity with life skill development, with a focus on self-confidence and respect. This year, 125 girls have signed up to participate in the southeastern CT chapter. Fifty percent of the girls need financial aid. Money is also needed to

train the coaches. The PoT2 funding, Jen said, would be used to expand the program to other towns and pay for another 80 girls to join in.

### **Dave Schulz – Safe Futures**

Safe Futures is an organization that assists victims of domestic abuse. SF is able to quickly respond to people in an emergency situation and provide immediate shelter, sometimes in conjunction with the local police. SF also provides temporary housing, job coaching, legal counseling, and transportation. The organization is building a new facility, where all the services will be available in one location – except for the emergency shelters, which will continue to be in non-disclosed locations. The new building will cost \$7.5 million: \$6.5 million of that amount is has already been raised. Dave said every donation makes a difference.

The membership voted and Girls on the Run received the most votes and will receive the Power of Together 2 funding for February 2025.