

# Nonprofit group awards \$9,300 to PNC

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January 23, 2017 06:41AM

**By Brooke Constance White Sun staff writer**

The 93 members of the Power of Together 2 charitable group donated \$9,300 to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center during its fourth meeting Tuesday night.

According to the meeting minutes, Stonington resident Lori Calobrisi, who proposed the PNC as one of the three nonprofit organizations that attendees would vote on, provided a detailed report on the services the center provides to its 2,000-plus clients and senior citizens, such as energy assistance, food distribution, a job-search program and transportation for seniors.

Vicki Anderson, executive director of the PNC, said she was thankful the center was the recipient of the donation this quarter. The funds will be used to purchase meat and fresh vegetables for their food-distribution program and to help local families keep their homes warm this winter as the cost of fuel steadily rises.

“The PNC is incredibly gratified to be chosen to be the first recipient for 2017 of the Power of Together Group,” she said. “The power of one person is incredible. But when you multiply that — watch out.”

The group, which meets every quarter, formed last spring with 43 members. Since then, the membership has more than doubled. During the quarterly meetings, three attendees are picked to suggest an organization to donate to. Once the pitches are made, members vote on which group will be chosen, and then every member, who could be a family unit, a single person or a group of people, donates \$100 to the cause.

They've added at least 10 new members each meeting. Gae Melford, who helped create the group, said she's been amazed to see the membership grow and how responsive the community was to the idea.

“The other day I saw a quote from Ashleigh Brilliant which reminded me of this group and the power of this simple idea: ‘Good ideas are common — what’s uncommon are people who’ll work hard enough to bring them about,’” she said. “Last April, 43 of those uncommon people took a leap of faith to start a grass-roots organization committed to raising monies, simply and without any fanfare, to give a big boost to local charities. Because of them, and the power of this simple idea, we now have more than doubled in size and 93 citizens are now part of this caring community. It’s probably one of the best and shortest meetings you’ll ever attend, with the most impact. You can’t help but feel good when you leave.”

During previous meetings, the group has donated \$4,300 to MASH, \$5,800 to the Groton Public Library, and \$8,200 to the Giving Garden at Coogan Farm.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on April 11 at the Mystic VFW Hall.

[bwhite@thewesterlysun.com](mailto:bwhite@thewesterlysun.com)