

Power of Together SECT 2
Meeting Minutes: August 14, 2018

Dave Schulz began PoT 2's 10th meeting by welcoming five new members: Ibbey Archer, Stafford McLean, Sue Rummel, Gary Schmid, and David & Betsy Stevenson, bringing our membership to 103! Our current donation total is \$77,850. After this meeting, we will have distributed over \$88,000 to worthy and important causes. Dave then introduced Cindy Palmer, who spoke about A Sacred Place, last quarter's recipient.

Prior Recipient Report

Cindy gave a powerful presentation on the impact our contribution has made, noting that over 9K makes a huge difference to a small organization. Our donation is contributing to two programs geared to mothers and children: The Storybook Project, which records an inmate's voice as she reads a storybook (the recording and the book are then passed on to her child/children), and Mommy and Me, which gives children the opportunity to spend time with their mom participating in a fun activity, generally craft-based. Another program is Houses of Healing which offers ways for inmates to address and change personal issues. Lastly, the balance, and majority, of the gift will go to The Barbara Fund, which provides "scholarships" for correspondence classes aiding women in working towards associate or even bachelor degrees, and skills for the workplace. Cindy was immensely grateful for our donation.

Dave then reviewed the "rules" for making a presentation, and the hat was passed.

The 3 chosen presenters were:

1. Dan Kelly, representing Meet the Needs Ministry (sponsored by St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Groton), which provides much-needed aid to individuals referred by various social agencies, working with local high schoolers and craftsmen: fixing a roof, cleaning a home of mold, painting a home, etc. Life-changing for the kids as well as the folks they work for. Money would go to getting a trailer to put their tools and supplies in.

2. Gigi Little, presenting A Good Laugh, which is in its 10th year of providing therapeutic humor for those affected by illness, medical or otherwise. They have worked with The American Cancer Society, Hole in the Wall Camp, CT Children's Medical Center and Hospice. Would like to fund additional hours to expand their storytelling, expressive art programs, clown visitations, all geared to providing a little relief, a little hope, a little humor to children and their parents.

3. Laura Manfre, for Sofia Sees Hope, a non-profit dedicated to providing information and support to those affected by LCA (leber congenital amaurosis) and other rare inherited retinal diseases. She described her daughter's diagnosis of LCA and the loneliness of having a disease that no one knows about and no support groups to belong to. Sofia Sees Hope is trying to correct that with a Family Connections Program, an Ambassador Program for volunteer outreach, and a Conference bringing families together to increase awareness and education.

Selected Organization

Sofia Sees Hope was selected. Checks for \$100 made out to Sofia Sees Hope should be sent to Karen Stone, 217 Noank Road, Mystic, CT 06355.