

## **Power of Together SECT 2 Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2018**

PoT SECT 2's ninth meeting was officiated by Dave Schulz. Membership is currently at 94 strong. Total donated in the eight meetings prior to tonight is \$68,150.00. Dave spoke of the upcoming PoT SECT 2 website as a great tool to help describe our goals and history to prospective members. In the meantime, if you have friends who are interested in knowing more, we have attached an enrollment form and some information on how PoT SECT 2 works. Dave welcomed anyone with expertise or interest in communications and or marketing, who would like to help in increasing our visibility, to email PoT SECT 2. A date for a "Social" was announced to be held at our next meeting on August 14. We would start the business meeting at 6:00 or 6:30 and then stay on afterwards. If anyone is interested in helping, we would welcome your involvement! Lastly, information will be sent out on the date and time our donations will be presented to upcoming selected organizations so that any member who wishes to attend can do so.

### **Prior Recipient Report**

Ron Ward from Start Fresh described how his interfaith group was responding to the crisis in Syria and had been welcoming refugees since 2016. Currently they are assisting four families, consisting of eight adults and 15 children. They will use our donation to provide summer camp activities for the kids; to place in a reserve for a winter heating fund; and to provide technology assistance after assessing student needs. He was tremendously grateful for our support and to member Carol Martin for proposing the organization.

### **Chosen Speakers**

1. Cindy Palmer presented A Sacred Place, a program to assist women incarcerated at York Correctional Institution. The 935 women are from all over Connecticut and most have experienced some sort of physical or emotional abuse. They offer a number of programs and tools to help them heal, to get back into society, to become better mothers, productive citizens. They have no state funding; 25 volunteers donate their time as well as try to get grants and donations. Most of the funding they need is to provide books and technology to augment the many programs they offer.

2. Mike Mondello presented Always Home (previously MASH), whose goal is to prevent homelessness by trying to assist in providing funds or housing before families become destitute. This can include finding temporary housing, helping to pay for a car repair, donating transportation, helping with heating costs, etc.

3. Pat Houser presented the Center for Hospice Care of Southeastern CT. She described the number of services that are offered to all in need, no matter their insurance. The volunteers provide counseling, palliative care, massage therapy and many other services, donating their own money as well as time.

### **Selected Organization**

A Sacred Place received the most votes. You can learn more about their organization at <http://www.asacredplace.org/programs-and-activities>.