

Power of Together 2

Meeting Minutes, Feb. 13, 2018

Introduction

The meeting was attended by over 72 members. Karen Stone officiated the meeting. Introductory remarks included a review of membership activity, our policy regarding providing donation information for tax purposes and IRS tax regulations, encouraging members to consider matching gifts from employers, and a save-the-date announcement about a May social gathering following the next PoT2 meeting, location TBD.

Prior Recipient Report

Spike Lobdell, President of NEW ENGLAND SCIENCE AND SAILING (NESS), which was the recipient of October's PoT2 donation, introduced a NESS student, Joseph Salsedo, who spoke about the benefits he and his sister and brother have enjoyed because of many years of participation in NESS programs.

Chosen Speakers

1. Carol Martin, representing START FRESH, was the first speaker. Start Fresh provides services to immigrant refugee families. They have settled up to 4 refugee families, providing a wide variety of necessary supports to help families transition to life in America. An all volunteer organization, they have been funded from the New London Clergy Association in cooperation with IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services of New Haven). Services include housing, employment, financial budgeting, and medical acquisition assistance, English language acquisition, children's school transition, hospitality and acculturation assistance, rides, state assistance paperwork, and more.
2. Gigi Little, founder of A GOOD LAUGH, was the second speaker. A Good Laugh was founded 10 years ago and provides therapeutic humor for those suffering from a variety of ailments, including depression, trauma and hospice patients. Children are a large portion of their audience. For example, A Good Laugh has donated hospital clown visits for 3 years. This April, they hope to perform a comedy show for veterans at a Mohegan Sun event.
3. Mary Summer, the third speaker, spoke on behalf of the TERRI BRODEUR BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION (TBBCF). TBBCF was founded IN 2006 in honor of Terri Brodeur, a young mother who died of breast cancer. The organization has raised over \$4 million to fund breast cancer research through grants to scientists. They give 100% of their proceeds to breast cancer research, primarily through an annual marathon walk.

Vote Outcome

- START FRESH received the most votes and will receive this quarter's PoT2 donation. You can learn more about the organization at their website: <https://www.startfreshct.org/>

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm