

Power of Together SECT 2
Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2019

Karen Stone began the organization's 13th meeting with the introduction of new members: Kim Talarczyk, Mark & Rachel Bundesmann, Briggs & Shelly Payer, Steve & Sue Goldstein, Bea Reynolds, Kristin Harkness, John Reilly, Tom Hodgkinson, Christina Clark, Melinda Carlisle, Angie Robinson, Ann Perrott, Pearl Murphy, and Fred & Pat Ziegler – bringing our total to 113 members. After 12 meetings, we had donated \$108,050 to 12 worthy causes. Karen next introduced Ann Perrott who spoke about New Life Ministry, last quarter's recipient.

Prior Recipient Report

New Life Ministry is an organization that helps women coming out of York Correctional Institution in Niantic, CT. Ann Perrott indicated they were close to “closing our doors. We had hit a (funding) wall – and then this (donation) came along!” Four women came out of prison at once, so the money was needed for rent, food, clothing, bus passes, and other necessities. “These woman walk out of prison with nothing but a plastic bag with a few possessions,” she said. Some of the money was also used to generate fundraising ideas.

Pitches

Karen reviewed the rules for making a presentation, and then passed the hat for member pitches. The three chosen presenters were:

- 1) Jenn Daly for Rare Disease Research Program. Jenn's husband, Dan McFadden, was diagnosed with an auto-immune disease that attacked his optic nerve and resulted in diminished vision. Some 300,000 people in Connecticut are affected by rare diseases. Jenn is looking to raise \$35,000 for the National Organization of Rare Diseases, which conducts research and supports people with rare diseases.
- 2) Sandy Maniscalco for the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation. Sandy wants to raise money to grow the TBBCF walk across SECT. The number of walkers has dropped. “It's harder for people to walk a marathon,” she said. The TBBCF is hoping to introduce a 5K walk this year that will be family friendly. They are hoping to entice another 200 people to walk, with an overall goal of raising \$300,000 for research. All of the raised money goes to research; overhead costs are donated by sponsors.
- 3) Gary Schmidt for Veterans Equine Therapeutic Services. Gary said SECT has a very large concentration of veterans in need of support for physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. The V.E.T.S. program pairs vets with horses at a barn in Stonington, where the vets learn about taking care of horses – and eventually ride them, if they wish. The connection they make with the horses helps vets fight depression and anxiety, giving vets a greater sense of self-esteem.

Selected Organization

The selected organization was V.E.T.S. Checks for \$100 made out to V.E.T.S. should be sent to Karen Stone, 217 Noank Road, Mystic, CT 06355. Or you can donate through the link provided in this email.