



## November 9-28, 2020 Electronic Meeting “Minutes”

### Overview of the November process:

For our final “meeting” of the year, given the extraordinarily challenging circumstances in which our communities find themselves due to COVID-19, the PoT2 organizers for a third time decided to replace the scheduled November 10 meeting up to block of time, November 9-28, to conduct another online “virtual” meeting instead. On November 9, we asked members to consider making a pitch for a worthy organization by the 15<sup>th</sup>. Eight organizations were submitted, and three were chosen randomly by the organizers. Their pitches were due by November 21<sup>st</sup>, and voting via Survey Monkey took place until Friday, the 27<sup>th</sup>. Details of the submissions follow.

### Prior Recipient Report:

This letter of thanks was received from Susan Sedensky, Executive Director of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

*The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center is thrilled to be the recipient of your generous donation of \$11,206.40. Thank you so much!*

*To date, we have spent \$4,125.78 of your donation in the following ways:*

*Eight (8) families received direct financial relief: three (3) were provided with rental assistance (totaling \$806.46); and five (5) families received relief for their heating and utility bills (\$943.57). We are currently working with other clients who are seeking rental assistance, and providing documentation.*

*Prior to COVID-19, 303 volunteers (the equivalent of 7 full-time employees) had donated 13,000 hours to keep our programs running. In March, we lost all of those volunteers. However, we continued to keep our Food Pantry open, which distributed food, baby formula and diapers, personal hygiene items and pet food. Without our volunteers, we had to hire staff to continue to operate. \$2,375.75 of your gift was used to pay our Food Pantry Worker who helps to shop weekly at the Gemma Moran Food Pantry and distributes the items listed above, 4 days each week.*

*Last year, 1,330 people received food from our pantry - 458 were children. Specifically, 461,628 pounds of food, or 384,693 meals, valued at \$770,919, was distributed. Five days each week, the PNC food van delivered food to Stonington housing complexes and the North Stonington Senior Center. From the PNC, Meals on Wheels delivered 11,406 meals to Stonington residents. Our thrift store offered low cost, and no cost clothing. We continue to offer all services.*

*Again, thank you so much for this amazing gift!*

**Presentations:**

Eight members offered their names to make a pitch. Of those, the 3 pitches randomly chosen to present to the membership were:

1. **Community Speaks Out**, presented by Tammy de la Cruz. Five years from their inception, Community Speaks Out has helped hundreds of individuals and families seeking support for recovery. As they have grown, their mission has also expanded to not only provide financial support for treatment but, to sustain recovery, to provide a strong continuum of care and time. This has included the need for funds to help pay for sober living, including a mentor program, safe sober living homes, life, and coping skills. Their important and life-saving work is all done by volunteers who are passionate in their desire to “fight for those who just need to know that there is help out there and that their life is worth fighting for.”

2. **Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation**, presented by Mary Sommer. Almost two of every five people will be diagnosed with cancer and one in eight women will develop invasive breast cancer. The TBBCF is dedicated to fund research to aid in the reduction and eradication of this pervasive disease. The foundation is unique in that 100% of their donations go directly to funding cancer research - research that is spearheaded by innovative scientists who are competing for an ever-diminishing pool of research grants. COVID has definitely restricted their fundraising efforts, but their volunteers have continued to remain active and are committed to funding five or more grants this year.

3. **The Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut**, presented by Barbara Sahagan. The JFEC has been helping the greater New London community for many years. But during these last challenging months, the needs of that community have grown substantially. Their food pantry, typically supplying 2,500 meals a month, is now supplying almost 9,000 meals to those in need. Addressing those expanding needs, they created the emergency Relief and Recovery Fund, to supplement their food bank and supply essential toiletry and PPE items to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Their guiding principle is Repair the World - everyone is eligible, no one is turned away.

**Outcome and Payment:**

We had a very good response to the survey, with 101 members voting. The chosen recipient was The Relief and Recovery Fund: Jewish Federation of Eastern CT.

For safety and expediency, we have requested that members pay through our online donation mechanism, Givinga, although checks are also accepted. Instructions will be forwarded in a follow-up email after the holiday weekend.

**Next Meeting:**

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is 7 pm, February 9, 2021 at the Mystic YMCA. We are uncertain at this time about whether we will also change the venue for this meeting and/or move the date, and will keep you posted. Happy holidays!