



Power of Together 2

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022

The meeting was held at the YMCA in Mystic and was well attended. It was also offered on Zoom, with one of the Zoom attendees making an online pitch for the first time.

Joseph Marino, executive director of **Immigration Advocacy and Support Center (IASC)**, the recipient of funds at our February meeting, thanked the group for our \$12,000 gift. The money helped defray the cost of government fees (which aren't covered by grants), and allowed the organization to take on more complicated cases (due to the fees being covered), as well as expand its community outreach to new immigrants. Paralegal Angela Florez played a recording on her phone of a grateful recipient of IASC's services.

IASC's staff includes one attorney and two paralegals plus several volunteers. IASC has served more than 300 people to date, and offers services on a sliding scale. They also provide community education presentations to help the community understand immigration law.

Three Pitches

1. Ken Levy, a **Waterford Country School (WCS)** Board Member, pitched via Zoom. He said the Waterford Country School is a human service agency dedicated to the special needs of children and families. WSC has been in operation for 100 years and offers a range of programs to the community, including education offerings for children with special needs. Levy indicated WSC would use the PoT2 funds for the WSC summer camp, which costs \$500/week/camper.
2. Christy William, **Flock Theater (Flock)** Board Member, pitched the Flock Theater Education Program. The program is targeted at fourth graders, who are developmentally delayed in reading and math. Flock goes into local schools and works with these students for a week, scripting and performing a "shadow figure" play, a play done behind a screen. He said that PoT2 funding would allow Flock to add two more schools to its roster.
3. Shannon DePerry pitched the **Thames River Family Program (TRFP)**, an organization that "provides safe housing and support services for families experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse or mental illness." The TRFP has a 24-unit complex in Norwich for families and children. Families pay on a sliding scale and can live in the facility for up to a year. DePerry said TRFP also helps people find jobs, so they can eventually afford rent outside of the complex, as well as other services. The PoT2 funding would be used to help families with rent.

The pitch that received the most votes was Thames River Family Program. Checks can be made to **Thames River Family Program**; payment options will follow in an email along with these minutes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2022.