

Notes, 10.22.20 Meeting of the Newtown Nonprofit Council

Valerie Ventura-Saadi of [Family & Children's Aid](#) described the programs - services for children that need safe homes and therapeutic support through telemedicine and telehealth.

Diane Salvo represents [Ross's Responders](#), an organization that provides medical training such as CPR and other types of first aid to groups (e.g., the Girls Scouts, etc).

Sean Fitzpatrick represents [Real Food Share](#) which Partners with the [Sticks and Stones Farm](#) and the [Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary](#). RFS is dedicated provide quality fresh produce to those who need it most.

[Families United in Newtown](#) offers programs for families with special needs.

Karen Tuller is the Director of the non-profit [Merryhill Childcare Center](#) on Queen Street.

The [Newtown Lions Club](#) was out in full force at the meeting with 4 members. The Lions have stopped doing membership drives for now, are still collecting eyeglasses in several locations around town. The annual Mustang raffle was a great success. An upcoming fundraiser is underway to upgrade Dickenson and Treadwell playgrounds to be ADA compliant.

Meredith Christos described the programs at [EverWonder Children's Museum](#) that include offering hands-on exhibits and programming for children in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.. The museum is open and just held a successful fundraiser.

Selectman Maureen Crick Owen was present representing the community-wide **Suicide Prevention Initiative** Talk Saves Lives.' A related video is [here](#).

Natalie Jackson, Director of [Newtown Human Services](#), shared that the [Newtown Senior Center](#) is now open and will continue the outdoor and distance programming as well as indoor programs. They are concerned about addressing the needs of Newtown residents particularly the seniors during the holidays

Patrice Gans is from [Random Hacks of Kindness](#) which provides coding programs designed for children in grades 4 – 8. RHK is concerned with how to get information publicized to increase participation.

Katherine Simpson represented [Newtown Helping Hands](#), an organization that helps get food into the hands of the elderly, at risk, and struggling families. Does grocery shopping, works with RealFood Share and other organizations to get food to those in need.

Joan Lavery represented the [Friends of C.H. Booth Library](#) who are accepting donations on Wednesdays and Saturdays. People can join for as little as \$10 for an individual.

Hugh E. "Tripp" Killin III is from the local family foundation **Jeniam Foundation** that has a strong focus on conservation issues.

Rebekah Harriman-Stites is Director of Development of [Ann's Place](#) which provides cancer support through professional counseling, support groups, wellness activities and educational resources. The organization is having two upcoming fundraising events: www.fashionforward2021.org is a virtual fashion show event, and www.annsplacefestivaloftrees.org is a virtual, 'at home' version of a signature event.

Douglas Lord represented the **C.H. Booth Library** which is now back to 60% of regular hours.