

# TantorGives! News



## New London Homeless Hospitality Center Update

Members of the TantorGives! Committee recently visited the New London Homeless Hospitality Center, a 40-bed shelter that also contains a 5-bed, 24-hour care section for those facing health crises. Over 600 guests are sheltered at the Center every year. The Center supports those facing homelessness by helping them acquire the basic, but essential, needs to find permanent housing and become independent; whether this be a new driver's license, treatment for addiction, or a bus ticket home.

TantorGives! will be making a monetary donation to help continue to build on the success that the Center has so far. Additionally, during the one year anniversary celebration of TantorGives! we will be holding a basket raffle, with the proceeds going towards the New London Homeless Hospitality Center.

If you are interested in donating a couple items to go into a basket, creating your own basket, or making a basket with some of your coworkers, look for an email and signup sheet to come soon with further details. Thank you for your support!

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our annual Food Drive will run from **November 3 until the 19<sup>th</sup>**, with drop off occurring on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Donations go to The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries Old Saybrook location.

A full list of needs will be emailed and posted around the building. This year, the most needed items at the pantry are: rice, pasta, pasta sauce, soup, tuna, meals in a can, juice (that does not need to be refrigerated), canned corn, green beans and peas, canned fruit, cereal, and oatmeal.

**Let's beat last year's total of 295 pounds!**

## Upcoming Fundraising and Charity Events:

- **November 13:** TantorGives! One Year Anniversary Celebration
- **November 3-19:** Thanksgiving Food Drive
- **December:** Holiday Mittens
- **Coming 2016:** Even more opportunities for YOU to get involved in charities with the support and endorsement of TantorGives!

**Have an idea for TantorGives!? Submit to [tantorgives@tantor.com](mailto:tantorgives@tantor.com)**

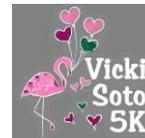
**We look forward to hearing from you!**

## Support Your Fellow Staff Members: Tantorian Charity Events

### Upcoming Events

#### **Vicki Soto 5K:** Kara Boucher

On November 7, the Vicki Soto Memorial Fund will host its third annual 5k, which will celebrate what would have been Vicki's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Vicki was one of the teachers who tragically lost her life in the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting in Newtown, CT on December 14, 2012. The proceeds from the 5k will go toward the Fund, which awards scholarships to students pursuing a career in the field of education. To date, the Fund has awarded over \$20,000 in scholarships. To donate to the Fund please go to [www.vickisotomemorial.com](http://www.vickisotomemorial.com) and click on the Donate Now button on the right side of the page. If you would like to run in the 5k, go to [www.vickisoto5k.com](http://www.vickisoto5k.com).



Kara personally knows one of the families affected by the mass shooting and she will be running with team **Love Wins**, in honor of Ana Grace. To find out more about the Ana Grace Project, the mission of which is to promote love, community and connection for every child and family, go to [www.anagraceproject.org](http://www.anagraceproject.org).



#### **BARBELLS FOR BOOBS**

#### **Barbells for Boobs:** Kristen Hummel

This will be Kristen's third year participating in the Breast Cancer Awareness Event, which will most likely take place at the Crossfit Payback in Taftville, CT. To donate and support Kristen in reaching her go to:

<https://fundraise.barbellsforboobs.org/fundraise?fcid=519708>.

#### **Connecticut Family Support Network:** Jason Otrin

Jason will be participating in setting up a social media campaign for CTFSN, which is to links families supports and services for children with special needs, and to learn to advocate for their needs and those of their children. For more information about the Network go to <http://www.ctfsn.org/>.



### Past Events



#### **Caroline's Miracle Foundation 5k:** Anne McCarty

<http://www.carolinesmiraclefoundation.org/>

TantorGives! Contribution: \$250



Tiny Hearts

#### **Two Tiny Hearts Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gold Tournament:** Ron Formica

<http://twotinyhearts.org/>

TantorGives! Contribution: \$250

**Have a charity event/fundraiser that you will be participating in?  
Submit to [tantorgives@tantor.com](mailto:tantorgives@tantor.com) so that we can support your great cause!**

## School Supply Drive Results

With your contributions, and a \$500 donation from TantorGives!, we were able to provide a ton of school supplies to students in Old Saybrook, Westbrook, and Norwich. Overall, it is estimated that the Tantor community was able to donate: 45 packs of pencils, 24 boxes of color pencils, 12 packs of highlighters, 60 glue sticks, 6 3-ring binders, 17 packs of filler paper, 20 boxes of markers, 40 boxes of crayons, 32 packs of pens, 19 packs of erasers, 49 composition books, 118 folders, 22 rulers, 2 pairs of scissors, 5 protractors, 3 compasses, 8 packs of index cards, 3 sharpeners, 65 notebooks, 17 lunch bags, 17 bottles of hand sanitizer, 4 packs of travel size tissues, and 4 hooded sweatshirts.

**Thank you for your donations!**

## Paying it Forward

I've been a supporter of the **UConn School of Business Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Disabled Veterans** for several years. This program is funded by donations and gives post-9/11 service-disabled veterans the training and help needed to start their own businesses. They receive a year's worth of online courses and participate in a 10 day "bootcamp" where professionals volunteer to train them on running a small-business and help them to write a business and marketing plan. At the end of the bootcamp they actually launch their business.

On October 7th, I gave a presentation to the class of 2015 on "IT Decisions for the Entrepreneur" filled with real-world advice on how to use IT in a small-business. I represented Tantor and our IT team. It was extremely well-received and they were very grateful to all of us (Tantor and our IT team) for the training. I want to give special thanks to my fellow IT colleagues who provided their own insights based on years of experience in the IT field. When I told them that I was doing this presentation for these veterans, I got the enthusiastic response "I'd love to help them, let me know what I can do!" I mentioned this to the veterans and you should have seen the smiles :-)

The veteran/entrepreneurs I spoke to represent the US Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force. There were twenty men, five women and all have exemplary service records and service-related disabilities. One class member was awarded the Purple Heart, one Legion of Merit and three were decorated for valor in combat. Several had visible evidence of very serious wounds. These vets are dedicated to each other: a common theme of their business plans was to assist or fund other veterans in need.

Thanks to Tantor and TantorGives! for giving me the time to do this and to my colleagues for sharing their knowledge and experience. As a veteran myself I am grateful for the opportunity to help out my brothers and sisters.

-Jason Otrin