



Website: [svdpstluke.org](http://svdpstluke.org)  
August 23, 2024      General membership meeting

“Why did you become a member of SVdP, and why do you remain a member?”  
Always remember our mission and vision.

**Spiritual Advisor:** Debbie Weingroff

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*\*Gratitude for years of Service for Volunteers: Rose Goggins and Eileen and Bill Hoernlein*

And many thanks to Archie Miller for donating his car to one of our guests.

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**Thank you to all who purchased a ticket for the Toms River Homeless and Housing Coalition Housing Center.** This was a successful event and a great support to the Center at 405 Washington Street, Toms River. The three winning tickets were sold at St. Luke’s (yeah!). The winners are: Kim Harris; June Connor and Joann Salvatore. The housing center answered over 850 calls within the last 5 months and has been able support increased housing requests and connect our neighbors with necessary needed resources.

**Guest speaker: Jamie Daly, LCSW**

[jdaly@sagewellnessctr.com](mailto:jdaly@sagewellnessctr.com)      732-505-4612

- Sage Wellness is dedicated to offering personalized counseling services to help individuals overcome life’s obstacles and enhance daily living. Sage Wellness Center is committed to providing a relaxed welcoming atmosphere where the focus is providing individualized counseling to maximize mental strength and overall well-being. Sage Wellness is located at: 1001 Lakewood Road, Toms River, NJ 08755

**Community Comfort and Fellowship Dinner:** Coordinator Marie Alfano(nrsip@aol.com)

This ministry continues to grow and have more of our homeless guests coming to join our dinners. We had approximately 75 guests for our potluck dinner in July with several new friends that representatives of HABcore transported who were living in a U- Haul truck. The mother, son, and daughter touched the hearts of our volunteers, and apparently, we touched theirs. The 90 year old mother, who was affectionally called Peanut by one of the volunteers, smiled between tears and thank us for the kindness shown to her and her family. Our volunteers have made connections with our guests, and this is a powerful experience. We have been able to send home leftovers with HABcore to feed other homeless individuals. We continue to share the evening with the residents living at Homestead Run, Redeem-Her House and special friends form St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church.

- Gratitude is extended to the volunteers from SVdP that share their time and spirituality to the Thursday dinners. We are also very grateful for the food donations offered from the Food Pantry. The dinners are the last Thursday of each month.
- The mission of HABcore, Inc.: provides affordable housing and individualizes support, helps homeless veterans, families, and individuals with special needs move through crisis to stability, giving them the opportunity to improve their lives. For 34 years HABcore has been on the front lines of life's issues and has been expanding to meet the growing needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

**Food Pantry:** coordinator Mary Schwarz ([mschwarz23@comcast.net](mailto:mschwarz23@comcast.net))

- The number of guests from January until the end of July was **4,746!!**  
**August numbers will be shared at our September meeting.**
- We are grateful for the countless hours of help received from all volunteers every day and especially on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month to unload the food deliveries and the tractor trailer of food items from Fulfill.
- Canned fruit is an item that is always needed and please reference the bulletin to access other suggestions. **Your** generosity is endless.

**Fundraising:** coordinator Barbara Neary ([hellonwheels67@aol.com](mailto:hellonwheels67@aol.com))

- Tuckerton Seaport adventure \$20.00 per person (includes pontoon boat ride tour, walking tour of the many historic buildings and light house, and a tour of the Captain's House. It is a 40-minute drive from Toms River (exit 58 on the parkway). Lunch is on your own; there are several places to eat within. At this time, reservations still being taken.
- October 11<sup>th</sup> is the Magic Show and Ventriloquist. The tickets are \$15.00 for advanced purchase and \$20.00 at the door. This event is being held in our parish center. Tickets are available!!! And please contact Barbara Neary or Kathy Minton.
- Our annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends is on 10/22. As always, thank you for your support. Information included with our update.

**Furniture:** Coordinators Pat and Paul Capelli: [pcapelli56@gmail.com](mailto:pcapelli56@gmail.com))

- Deliveries are continually being made to those who need a room of furniture or an entire house of furniture. Pat and Paul measure the rooms of an apartment or house, and then drive to the warehouse and choose the needed items for our guests. Once completed they make the necessary arrangements to have the furniture delivered. Both Pat and Paul are very dedicated to making a house a home for our guests.
- **If you have furniture to donate:**
  - 1) Please call 609-775-7837 or
  - 2) Email: [furniture@svdptrenton.org](mailto:furniture@svdptrenton.org)

**Helping Hands:** Coordinator Christine Cotgreave ([BlueDevil1191@live.com](mailto:BlueDevil1191@live.com))

- In July, Helping Hands cared for 52 families consisting of 113 adults and 85 children with 1,410 items with an In-Kind value of \$6,571.00. In addition, the volunteers assembled 55 beach pails filled with summer toys, etc. (Lots of happy smiles as a result.)
- August was even busier by sharing needed items with 75 families consisting of 173 adults and 115 children with 1,042 items with an In-kind value of \$5,939.50. Many school supply packets were enthusiastically received by parents of school age children; a wonderful support from us to share with our children that we wish them a successful school year.

**High School Volunteers**

- Will Hanley: a previous St. Luke CCD student and will be a junior at Christian Brothers Academy. This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> summer of volunteering both with Helping Hands and the food pantry. Will is both an athlete and an academic honors student.
- Aaryan Nagaria: 1<sup>st</sup> year volunteering with our conference. Aaryan has been helping in our food pantry and is in the process of creating an APP that will connect the local charities with high school volunteers. He will be attending the next Homeless Coalition meeting to discuss this concept and make some decisions on how to move the process along as seamlessly as possible. Aaryan will be a sophomore student at High School East this September and is an honors student in the S.T.E.A.M. program (science, technology, engineering, arts and math)

**Home visitors and Intake:** coordinators Joe Damato ([ajax50@aol.com](mailto:ajax50@aol.com)) and Michelle Jones ([mmj8588@verizon.net](mailto:mmj8588@verizon.net))

- At this time, we have a strong staff of volunteers for these two ministries (thank you)
- We are providing the volunteers with the most current county resources (PDF file, SVdP website and paper copies)
- More county resources have become available for our neighbors, and we will always do our best to help with resources and budget guidance.

**Pavers:** Coordinator Charlie Rott ([crott26682verizon.net](mailto:crott26682verizon.net))

- An order of pavers was recently installed into our Celebration Garden and we have received orders for two more pavers
- We anticipate selling additional pavers during another weekend in the early fall

**Registration for SVdP:** Linda Panaccione ([lin.panaccione@gmail.com](mailto:lin.panaccione@gmail.com))

- At this time, we are in compliance, as a conference, and as members with SVdP requirements.
- Please wear ID badges any time we are volunteering
- Membership is at 115 members and several new registrations are pending
- Any questions regarding registration/membership please call Linda. She always has the right answers for our questions.

**Sunshine club:** Coordinator Karen Rott ([karenrott@verizon.net](mailto:karenrott@verizon.net))

- At this time there is sufficient funds for the Sunshine Club (thank you)

**Vegetable Garden:** Coordinator Meg Otchy ([megotchy2gmail.com](mailto:megotchy2gmail.com))

- This summer our volunteers have been growing basil, beets, cantaloupe, carrots, chives, dill, eggplant, garlic, lettuce, parsley, radishes, scallions, snap peas, potatoes, swiss chard, thyme, tomatoes. Our guests have been cared for in a special way by the consistent and diligent effort of the volunteers
- The challenges of the season have been both the extreme heat and a demanding issue regarding our irrigation system. The system has been repaired, and it is a situation we will always address as soon as possible.

**Technology:** Coordinator Kathy Minton ([kcminton15@gmail.com](mailto:kcminton15@gmail.com))

- Reminder that Farro's Tees is having a 20% sale on all SVdP clothing
- The website is constantly being updated with all the current happenings and events with SVdP. Any forms that are needed for home visits have been redone along with time sheets. Forms can be printed from the website.
- Both Kathy and Barbara Neary are putting a great deal of preparation time for the upcoming fundraising events!! All fundraising helps us to support our neighbors/guests during their challenging times, and additionally, the events give us the opportunity to have some social times together.

**Time Sheets:** Sue DeBella([sdebella814@gmail.com](mailto:sdebella814@gmail.com))

- Time sheets can be printed from website (under forms)
- Please hand in your time sheet at the end of each month and place the sheet in the file slot by the back pantry door
- Please put **full first and last name at the top of each time sheet**
- Total the hours for both volunteer hours and mileage/ count hours of any donated time that is done at home for SVdP
- # of volunteer hours from October – June **6806.36**  
#of miles driven in connection to SVdP **22,559**  
Although Sue is keeping accurate records, we appreciate that not everyone has handed in all time sheets. Please do your best to do so 😊

**Toy Drive for Christmas:** Coordinator Susan DeMillio ([medcareajyahoo.com](mailto:medcareajyahoo.com))

- Volunteers needed for toy distribution- please contact (Susan Mario Jennings/[smarinojennings@gmail.com](mailto:smarinojennings@gmail.com))
- Volunteers will be registering parents' requests for their children's gifts from October 7<sup>th</sup>-November 15<sup>th</sup> every Monday and Friday between 9:00 AM and 11:30AM in the vestibule between Helping Hands and the Food Pantry. At the same time, parents may fill out raffle tickets for the larger donated gifts
- "Parents' Shopping Days" December 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 16<sup>th</sup> (**final day**). Again, the times will be from 9:00AM- 11:30AM on Mondays and Fridays (after that time toys will be donated to another charity.)

**Treasurer: Sharon Bianchi (jbianchi72comcast.net)**

- **Expenses** since October 23<sup>rd</sup> – June 24<sup>th</sup>
  - 1) Financial assistance for our guests: \$63,894.96 (number of families helped 1,747 – home visits 64)
  - 2) Needed items for the food pantry \$14,455.20
  - 3) Operating expenses \$2,778.84 (Insurances, etc.)
  - 4) Twinning \$7,450.00 (with Yamba Uganda of Africa and other local SVdPs)
  - 5) Bank fees \$35.00
- **Income:**
  - 1) Weekly envelopes \$66,972.30
  - 2) Private donations \$4,975.00
  - 3) Fundraising \$4,186.00
  - 4) We were a grant recipient for \$1,000.00 from the Rotary Club of Toms River(yeah!)

**Walk of the Poor:** sponsored by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and will be held on Saturday, September 28. If you are interested in participating the information will be in our conference room.

**Additional Ocean County Updates**

- Kathy Catron and I have continued to attend the Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month. Representatives from the local agencies are in attendance, and we share what resources are available for those who are having very challenging experiences with their health, housing, and food. Our Board has voted to continue to offer resources as needed through the Director, Laurie Singer. Some requests have been plastic ponchos, food, coffee, large zip lock bags to hold personal documents and wallets, underwear for both men and women, and cot mattresses.
- I have been offered the opportunity to be on the Board of this coalition. It has been a gratifying experience to date; we also meet once a month. I have been able to participate in supporting some of the positive strides being made to help our neighbors in a most humanitarian manner. More housing is being provided and better health opportunities are being offered. I want to share with you two new happenings:
- 1) The Steven Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation is planning to build a village in Bayville (property bordering Rt. 9 and Sloop Creek Rd.). The village will consist of one three story building consisting of **99/400 sq. foot apartments**, each with a bedroom, bathroom, living room and kitchen, along with a medical facility, physical rehab facility, great room, and resource room center. **There will be an additional 24/ 500 square foot small houses.** This village will be for honorably discharged veterans of any age and rent will be income based at 30%.  
2)\$7.5 M awarded for Homeless Housing Programs (copy of article in our conference room)

**Current Goals for our conference:**

- Retreat to be held at St. Luke's for our conference and other local conferences
- To continue to build our volunteer base
- To continue fundraising project allowing us to continue to support as many guests as feasible with their current financial challenges.
- To continue to be participatory in working with local county agencies

**Personal note:** Don and I moved to Toms River in 1972 and have been members of the Parish of St. Luke for over 40 years (our parish had its beginnings in the cafeteria of Silver Bay School, moved to the Intermediate School, the VFW on Church Road, the parish center and now our Church). Don was our Deacon for over 18 years before he passed away in 2007. Where my family is, has always been home to me, because home is a feeling and not just a place. In addition, for me, all these years St. Luke's has been a part of that most important feeling- and, all of you, the members of SVdP, are part of the many important people in my life, who make my heart bigger, and you make the hearts bigger of so many people, because of all the good that is done, for the purist of reasons, on every single day.

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“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”  
*Albert Schweitzer.*