

St. Vincent de Paul
Board Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2024

Website: svdpstluke.org

Present: Gemma Brennan, Jill Bradley, Paul Capelli, Kathy Minton, Barbara Neary, Meg Otchy, Ben Russell, Debbie Weingroff, Gen Yachnik

Absent: Sharon Bianchi, Joe Damato

Gemma, president, opened meeting at 1:15 pm followed by Debbie with SVdP prayer. Thanked Debbie for the re-commitment arrangements.

Discussion of client requests: (Joe Damato absent)

Client #1 – discussed at September 30 board meeting. Client had job interview. Obtained lawyer for SSDI. Gemma gave client a \$100 gift card, provided to Gemma, for gas. Case is on hold until Gemma speaks to client.

Client #2 – 43 years old, single parent of five, live at Hopes Crossing, requesting assistance with rent. In January 2023 – board approved \$2500 for rent payment. Was advised, at that time, to make use of food pantry and helping hands. In 2023, client had contacted Emergency Assistance for rent and was awaiting response. More details to be developed for this case.

Ramon Garcia, home visit presentation

Client #3, 43 yrs old, has lived at Hope's Crossing since 2009, had a one bedroom (got divorced moved away) requested a one bedroom again but only available apartment was a two bedroom. Current rent = \$1385, however it's increasing \$200 on November 1 to \$1585. Works full time at Coastal Neurology (\$20 per hour). Interviewing for United Healthcare (would pay \$24 an hour) and looking for a one bedroom apartment. Total income = \$2745, expenses = \$2680, net = \$65. Client fell behind because of \$500 car repair bill. Client requests \$1385 for rent. Ramon supports this request.

Client has no health insurance – can't afford. **Board approved \$1385 rent.** Board also suggested the following: Call “Get Covered NJ” for health insurance; provide client the list of food pantries in Ocean County (some open at night and weekends); look into getting a roommate (contact Laurie Singer 848-223-7284, Washington St, Toms River for potential set up with roommate); and reduce the cable bill.

Gemma, provided financial report in Sharon's absence

Mass donations = \$1249.35 (much larger than normal donations), **Boscov's** – an additional \$50 (total to date = \$1470), **Liability insurance** - paid \$470, therefore total in **checking account** = **\$23,149.62.**

Financial support for clients approved at this meeting: \$2885 (\$1385-client #3, \$500 TBD St. Al twining, \$500 Yamba Uganda twining, \$500 SVdP NC hurricane relief twining).

Paul Capelli, furniture coordinator

Reviewed cases providing furniture:

Client #4 – furniture to be delivered on Saturday, **Client #5**- furniture to be delivered on Wednesday (Brown Mills), **Client #6**, Hopes Crossing (four kitchen chairs).

Jill discussed Helping Hands client request for sectional – Vincent Legacy does not have. These are too big and no room to store. Jill will advise Christine Cotgreave to notify client.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator

Gemma needs data for October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 fiscal year (number of families, adults, children, etc. served).

Sixty members attending John Connelly's luncheon. Father Al, Father Bob, and a number of past SVdP presidents will attend. Father Michael unable to attend.

Kathy Minton, technology coordinator

Magic Show fundraiser – sold 125 tickets. Ben and Kathy are selling at CCD tonight. Several members have offered to assist the night of the event, October 11 (Gemma, Jill, Ben, Meg, Debbie, Mary, Paul, Barbara, Kathy, and Kathy's husband, to date). Helping Hands has provided comforters/blankets for children to sit on. Father Michael to provide some remarks and Kathy's husband to emcee. Gemma wants to make sure that this is recognized as a SVdP event.

All those attending – please wear SVdP apparel.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator

Will discuss possible new fundraisers at next meeting. Consider taking over the paver sales since Charlie Rott is no longer going to do these.

Meg Otchy, garden coordinator

Meg meeting tomorrow with Gemma, Matt MacCarrick, and Charlie Yannelli to discuss needed garden improvements – centerboards, beds, irrigation system, etc.

Gemma to contact Elaine, donor willing to possibly commit \$5,000 towards these improvements. Honor donor with paver/s.

Tomatoes are becoming ripe, lettuce and carrots coming in. Hoping to plant garlic soon.

Gen Yachnik, helping hands

Gen to advise Christine of Gemma's request for fiscal year data (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024) including in-kind value.

Now have members who are willing to stay to put items back in the Parish closet after 1 pm.

Christine to send note to HH members – availability to open on Columbus Day.

HH looking for handbags. No more need for size 0 – 12 months children's clothes. Only accepting winter clothes.

Susan DeMillio, toy drive coordinator (Gemma provided update for Susan)

Excellent volunteer committee – all flyers completed in English and Spanish. Starting to take info from food pantry clients. Many new toys donated – age 0 – 12 years only. Rotary club will be donating. Jill's neighbor is donating wrapping paper and 40 – 50 varying size Christmas bags for toy committee use.

Ben Russell

Spoke with Linda Pheifer, Contact of Ocean County. Discussed his availability to assist their Senior Wellness Program by making weekly phone calls to those living alone. Great, Ben!

Gemma:

Will ask Fr. Michael if SVdP will be getting the Ash Wednesday donations.

Church needs to have a capital campaign for roof replacement. This may impact the amount of money SVdP receives from parishioners because of the need to support the capital campaign.

CCFD – October 31. Gemma needs to again discuss joint issue between SVdP and St. Luke's with Marie Alfano.

St. Al's, Jackson, requested financial assistance. Board approved considering to twin on a case.
Twin with SVdP hurricane relief – board approved \$500 but to go to a specific SVdP in NC.
Twin with Yamba Uganda – board approved \$500 (Mary Goss).

County Meeting at St. Luke's, November 13, 1:15 pm – advise Gemma if attending.

Gemma meeting today with potential new volunteer, already FP and Virtus, SVdP Whiting.

Works at Rose Garden- possibly head the Monday night food pantry if decision is made to open.

General meetings – consider doing quarterly instead of every month. Gemma will research the viability of this. For now, no meeting in October or November. Will have one on December 13.

Gemma – traveling to DC. Oct 19-20 (should be back on Monday – if not run meeting ourselves), also going to Alabama on October 23 - not sure when returning. *Enjoy the football games, Gemma!*

Commenced meeting at 3:30 pm followed by Debbie with closing prayer. Please pray for Ed Rohloff, Margaret Daley, Mary Egging, Rita Williams, and Declan (10 year old).

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, secretary