

**St. Vincent de Paul  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 5, 2024**

**Website:** svdpstluke.org

**Present:** *Gemma Brennan, Sharon Bianchi, Jill Bradley, Joe Damato, Kathy Minton, Meg Otchy, Mary Schwarz, Debbie Weingroff, Gen Yachnik*

**Absent:** *Barbara Neary, Ben Russell*

**Gemma** – commenced meeting at 1 pm followed by Debbie with SVdP opening prayer.

**Sharon Bianchi, treasurer:**

Current balance = \$26,361.46. This includes a deposit of \$1,356 from this weekend mass donations. Received a \$1,000 donation from a Toms River rotary. Sharon will determine which rotary.

**Theresa Hinds – home visit presentation:**

Client #1, referred to SVdP from DCPP employee Brittany Aballo. Client, 21 years old and client's 18 month old child were living in dangerous home in South Jersey. Client heard baby cry and found child with a rope around her neck – child abuse issue. DCPP had client/child move to residential home in Silverton, owned by Jewish landlords. Appears this is a rental type boarding house currently home to five other adults, six children and two animals. This is not a state authorized shelter. During the board meeting HABcore and Family Promise were called. Neither believe this is a safe environment for the client and that the situation is not legal. DCPP requested that SVdP pay the monthly rental of \$800 to this landlord. The situation does not make sense to the board nor to these agencies. DCPP also paid for two beds for the client (that again makes no sense).

Client has no income, doesn't work, and want to go back to school. Client's mother drove client to the home in Silverton. Nothing really known about the client's mother. Questions: how this client with no income could go back to school, who will watch the baby, how is client paying for client/child food, clothing, etc. This situation is way above the area of involvement and expertise of SVdP. **Board declined** to assist the client. DCPP and client should contact HABcore and Family Promise for client assistance.

**Joe Damato – home visit presentations:**

Client #2, requests assistance with utility bills. On July 8, 2024, SVdP approved payment of \$27.27 (electric) and \$372.69 (gas). What utility bills need paying a month later? Perhaps client is confused on what has been paid. Joe will discuss with client and review bills. **No further payment to be made.**

Client #3, 59 years old, former truck driver who made over \$100,000 per year. Did not save money. Now unemployed and not able to work – on oxygen full time. On February 9, 2024, SVdP approved payment of \$2,093.52 for rent (Homestead Run). Board advised client, at that time, to sell client's expensive car, expensive furniture, and apply for SSDI and PADD. Client is on Medicaid. Client is now requesting rent assistance again, around \$2,000. **Board declined approval.**

Client #4, former client, requesting assistance for water bill. In 2023, SVdP provided significant support to client then found that client was gambling money, had four dogs, and ruined the furniture that Vincent's Legacy had provided. Client's partner receives \$800 per month to care

for client. **Board declined payment** because of past experience with this client.

**Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:**

For the month of July, 212 families served (495 adults, 268 children = 763 individuals). This number is above prior year.

Fulfill orders – received about half of what was requested, no meats.

Computer system has been going down – a lot has to be input manually. This is a problem and time consuming.

**Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator: (Gemma reported for Barbara)**

Eighteen members have responded for the Tuckerton Seaport outing. We still have some time for last minute members to join.

Boscov's fundraising coupons have been received.

**Meg Otchy, garden coordinator:**

Disappointed with produce so far. Half of what we had last year. The extreme heat and problems with the irrigation system have hindered the crops. Meg is still waiting for the irrigation part that was ordered. KC had been handling. Gemma to text KC.

Matt MacCarrick to redo the beds in the fall. Thank you, Matt.

Melons have come in great! May also consider doing potatoes next year and produce that is more drought resistant.

Garden hoses will have to be replaced.

**Gen Yachnik, helping hands:**

Looking for toaster, coffee maker, handbags, and egg poacher.

Now working on school supplies. Christine Cotgreave has put all school supply kits together. Lisa from CCD will provide HH with school supply donations.

**Jill Bradley, secretary:**

July 15 board minutes were sent out last Sunday. Please review and provide approval, if not already done.

Working with Linda Panaccione on ministry list and new members. Will provide update to all board members and coordinators by the end of August.

The following new members are now ready for placement: Ana Garcia will be joining the home visitors, Joe Markowski will be assisting the food pantry truck, Matt Howell – TBD. Jill to contact him to determine placement.

**Kathy Minton, technology coordinator:**

Updating the website.

Flyers completed for Magic Show – starting to be sent out. Tickets done and can now be purchased. Kathy inquired as to the ability to have a cash box for ticket purchases. Yes, that should be possible. Kathy and Gemma to check.

May need a modem/router for SVdP's own WiFi, separate from St. Luke's system. Members are having much difficulty using computers while in the building. Was hoping that booster might help. John Connelly purchased one but that does not seem to be helping.

**Gemma:**

Please read the article - \$7.5 million awarded for Homeless Housing Programs. This money was

awarded to HABcore in conjunction with Family Promise of the Jersey Shore and Bright Harbor Healthcare to assist the homeless.

August 14 – County Meeting. At this point, Gemma, Debbie, Kathy, and Gen will be attending.

August 23 – General Meeting, 1 pm. Will have guest speaker on mental health. Election of president for the next term (three years) will be done during this meeting. Donation box will be at the general meeting for contributions of a monetary gift to Fr. Michael as pastor.

September 27, next general meeting.

**Gemma** - commenced meeting at 3:30 pm. Debbie provided SVdP prayer. Please also include Lena, Declan (8 year old), Paul C, Kathy M's mom, Gen's son and new daughter-in-law in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Bradley, secretary