

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2024

Website: svdpstluke.org. (Take a look at this if you have not. Great information!)

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

Gemma, president – commenced meeting at 1 pm followed by **Debbie, spiritual director**, with SVdP prayer. **Kathy Minton** also provided additional prayer, St. Theresa's prayer.

Ramon Garcia, home visit presentation:

Client #1, 47 yrs., lives with high school age child in Dover Chase Apartments for the past two years, rent is \$1755. Client is a phlebotomist, works full time at NJ hospital. Able to pick up extra shifts because of personnel shortages. This past July, client was hospitalized, needed transfusion. Following that client's car broke down requiring a new transmission - \$1800. Both these issues set client back. Client has no credit cards – all paid in cash. Client also assisting client's mother who has cancer.

Income = \$3500, expenses = \$3271, net = \$229. No food stamps or child support. Income may be too high for food stamps. Request is for \$1877 (one month back rent and \$100 late fee). Based upon note from apartment management, rent payment being turned over to collection. Client may have had late rent payments in the past. Ramon advised client of the food pantry and also other resources that may be able to assist. Ramon states client is a hard worker and supports board approval of request.

Board agreed to rent payment of \$1755 (we do not pay late fees) and **requested that Ramon obtain a copy of the car repairs to make sure all this checks out. After this meeting – confirmed that car repair bill was received and now in the file.**

Marlene and Chuck Kern – home visit presentation:

Client #2, 71 yrs., has been disabled since 2008, lives in Galloway Manor, owns trailer but leases property (\$652.27). Income = \$974.25 (SSI), expenses = \$974.25, net = (-\$3.83). Client also receives an additional \$283 in food stamps. Client receives Mom's Food delivery twice a week. Client had a bad case of food poisoning resulting in hospitalization. Client is trying to get back on track. Has social worker who is helping with various resources. Water, sewer, home insurance are in arrears. The Kern's support assisting, believe the client is trying very hard to pay all bills and does not want to be delinquent again. **Board approved payments: water/sewer = \$663.42, insurance = \$161.94 for total of \$825.36.**

Joe Damato – home visit presentation:

Client #3, former client numerous times. July 2024, Board approved payment of \$27.27/electric and \$372.69/gas. Joe met with client on August 12 to review bills. Client had surgery and is now home from the hospital. There were parts of the original bills that the client had not realized. If not paid – utilities are going to be shut off. **Board approved** additional payment of \$203.66/gas and \$107.38/electric = total of **\$311.04.**

Sharon Bianchi, treasurer:

Mass donations = \$672

Balance including mass donations = \$26,238.12

Reimbursement made today to Sue DeMillio = \$147.77 (toy ministry).

Financial payments approved today to assist clients: Total = \$2,891.40. Client #1 (\$1755), Client #2 (\$825.36), Client #3 (\$311.04).

Sue DeMillio, toy ministry coordinator:

Update on this ministry:

Has six committee members to assist her; already has 125 new toys; three organizations have agreed to support with toys – Jersey Shore BBQ, Rotary Club, LakeRidge Club – great job, Susan!

Age group for gifts this year will be 0 – 12 years old. Parent sign-up for children (food pantry/helping hands clients only) will be from October 7 – November 15 (informational signs will be posted and Susan will be at SVdP for sign-ups). Pick-up of gifts will be from December 2 – December 16 on Mondays and Fridays in conjunction with SVdP hours. **December 16 will be the absolute last date for pick-up!!** For high end items, there will be a raffle. Lisa from CCD will have “children helping children” by CCD students donating small dollar store items.

Kathleen Muzzio has many new toys that get donated to the church. She will provide those toys to Susan to include with the SVdP program. In return, Susan will provide gifts to the 35 families that Kathleen had done in the past. These families will follow the same procedure as SVdP. No request for a specific item, they will be age appropriate donated items. Kathleen will have the Giving Tree for parishioners focusing on nursing home residents.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:

Large donation from Fulfill today. Pantry very busy today and last Friday. Forty two people served last Friday. Fulfill supplying SVdP with about fifty \$25 gift cards for ShopRite use. Cards are only for families of three or more. All cards must be accounted for and used by the end of the month. Balancing act to try and have these fairly distributed and not to all the same people every month. Per Mary, the distribution is not to all the same people.

Computer problems hampering accurate input and staff have to input manually. Time consuming. Pantry could use about three-four more volunteers. Jill working with Linda P and new members to steer them towards the pantry.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator:

Tuckerton Seaport – 19 members currently going.

Magic Show info will be shared at the August County Meeting. Tickets available for purchase.

Boscov's coupons ready, October 22 date. Letter to members from Barbara was discussed with some adjustments made.

Meg Otchy, garden coordinator:

Matt MacCarrick will rebuild the vegetable beds as soon as approval given.

No water today for the garden - pump problem. Gemma discussed with Kathleen Muzzio. Kathleen called the parish landscaper – no response yet from landscaper. Meanwhile no water for plants. Meg had to bring many gallons of water from her home. Irrigation line is still a problem with part not being replaced yet. Again, the parish landscaper needs to provide and only parish staff can contact the landscaper. Hope the tremendous amount of work put into the garden does not go to waste because of no water/parts.

Gen Yachnik, helping hands:

Gemma expressed thank you to helping hands for providing excess clothing to this month's CCF dinner. Helping Hands will provide excess twice a year – when transitioning from summer to

fall/winter and then again when transitioning from winter to spring/summer.
School supplies are being distributed as needed.

Jill Bradley, secretary: (time did not permit sharing the below info)

All minutes are up to date and have been provided to Kathy Minton for placement on the website. Thank you, board members for your prompt response on approvals/corrections for the minutes.

Working with Linda P on her member list – updating for her the current status of members along with adult communities served. Ministry list being updated with new members and placements. **Currently 111 members active in ministries.** All members (per Linda P's member list) are actively involved in our ministries. Only difference is one member – John Kempton, active in regional SVdP but not in a specific local ministry. **Of the 111 active members, many are involved in more than one ministry. The total number of members supporting all ministries = 185!** An incredibly dedicated group!!

Kathy Minton, technology coordinator:

Met with Sue DeBella to create new doc. for volunteer hours. Results from October 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 = 6,806 hours (seems low). Please ask your staff members to get their time sheets in! Hopefully, in the future we can determine those members who are not completing time sheets and provide a gentle reminder.

New St. Luke website – SVdP is listed under “MINISTRIES” - yea!!!!

Kathy wrote to Each Stitch Counts – charitable organization that donates laundry/dish detergents to food pantries. The organization responded and is willing to contribute to our food pantry. Mary Schwarz to follow up with them. Thank you, Kathy.

Debbie Weingroff, spiritual director:

Sunday, September 29, 10 am Mass, re-commitment for SVdP. Please wear SVdP apparel or blue shirt.

Gemma:

County meeting, August 14, 1 pm, Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1139 East County Line Rd. Lakewood (in the small white church).

Friday, August 23, 1 pm, general meeting: agenda – lunch; guest speaker from Sage Wellness; collection for Fr. Michael; election for president. Coordinators - please update Gemma on ministry results for this meeting.

August 22 – CCFD

Toy Ministry – first meeting this week.

August 7, monthly Homeless Coalition meeting, more agencies joining and developing coordination among the agencies. Kathy Catron and Gemma attended.

August 21, 1 pm, Ocean Inc. to hold meeting for guests who are in need of heating assistance.

Retreat – TBD, provide Gemma with suggestions of place/date/time/speakers, etc.

Adjourned meeting at 4 pm followed by Debbie with SVdP prayer. Pray for Christine C, Declan, Kathy M's mom, water, irrigation system and Meg and the garden produce!

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, secretary