

Saint Vincent de Paul
Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2024
Website – svdpstluke.org (check it out!!)

Present: Gemma Brennan, Sharon Bianchi, Jill Bradley, Joe Damato, Kathy Minton, Barbara Neary, Meg Otchy, Ben Russell, Mary Schwarz, Debbie Weingroff, Gen Yachnik
Potential new board member: Paul Capelli
Absent: none

Gemma, president – opened meeting at 1 pm with SVdP prayer.

Gil Kerrigan - home visit presentation

Client Fidelino Camos, works full time at Tony's Pasta House, has wife and four children ages 1, 9, 13, 16. On October 2, 2023, the board approved payment of \$614.72 for electric and TRMUA. Current income = \$4090 (\$3000 wages, \$170 tips, \$920 food stamps), expenses = \$4251, net = (-\$161). Has credit card debt of \$7,300. Mortgage payment on house is \$1347. Spends \$1100 monthly on food and clothing. Wife does not work anymore since baby was born and is caring for the children. Client requests assistance with electric bill of \$719.68 (in arrears). Electric will be shut off on August 31 if not paid.

Board agreed to payment of \$719.68 to avoid electric shut off. Gil to advise of our food pantry, some school supplies if needed for the children, and clothing from helping hands.

Paul Capelli – home visit presentation

Client Samantha Bless, 34 yrs, lives in apartment off Massachusetts Ave with disabled mother, 60 yrs and brother, 32 yrs. None of them work due to disability of mother and brother and client having to be the caregiver for them. Rent is \$400 (Section 8). Total income = \$2422 (\$1182 #SS, \$600 #SSI, \$160 welfare, \$480 food stamps), expenses = \$1671, net = \$751. Client requests \$2279 in car repair bills. Car had flat tire but needed four new tires (all bald) and brakes.

Board approved up to \$1500 in car repairs and suggested Paul have client bring car to Craig and Lisa's Auto Repair. This shop has worked with us and St. Joe's before and provides fair estimates and repair.

Ben Russell – home visit presentation

Client Tammy Longinetti, 58 yrs, resident of Redeem-Her House with rent of \$700. Has been sober for about a year and works full time for the past two years at a sprinkler company.

Income = \$2756.60, expenses = \$1460, net = \$1296.60. Client doesn't have a car so takes Uber to and from work for about \$400 per month. Those expenses were not included in stated expenses, therefore actual net is about \$896.60. Client has outstanding traffic violations (speeding and reckless driving) totaling \$1202 with fees of \$3050 for none payment of these violations = \$4252 debt. She owes Brielle township \$561 in violations and the town expects full payment. Client has not paid off any of these in spite of a positive net income. She will not get out of this hole until she starts to pay these off. Board is not comfortable with paying her traffic violations. To assist her, board agreed to pay one month's rent of \$700. Client is to pay Brielle \$563 and with the remaining \$137, pay the \$147

ordered by the courts that she hasn't paid. Ben to advise her that she MUST provide SVdP with the payment receipts from Brielle and the other \$147 payment due. Ben will work with her on budget to

pay down her outstanding violations.

Joe Damato (for Michelle Jones) – home visit presentation

Client Bob Trouw, 75 yrs, lives at Homestead Run, heavy smoker, was a cook but no longer working. Client had been buying food and cooking for neighbors without considering his income. Total income = \$1570 (#SS), expenses = \$1510, net = \$60. Client just applied for food stamps. Client owes \$2800 in back rent (\$500 monthly) and was taken to court. Michelle pledged \$1000 to client before he went to court. This should have been approved by the board first.

Board will honor Michelle's pledge of \$1000. Refer client to TR Senior Services for additional assistance and he needs to stop smoking (very expensive).

Joe Damato (for Michelle Jones) – home visit presentation

Client Joyce Blay, 70 yrs, lives at Homestead Run, owns trailer, pays \$484.71 for property space. She was a writer, laid off October 2023, received unemployment until April 2024. Income = \$1078 (#SS), expenses = \$2373, net = (\$-1295). Currently four months behind in rent and several months in arrears for electric. In reviewing her budget sheet, client has monthly car payment of \$765, cable of \$250, and cell of \$115 – all very high. Believe client just started a new job – no details on job or salary. Did client attempt to get a job between October 2023 and April 2024? What is client's financial situation – no savings to offset some of the bills she has not paid?

Board not comfortable paying anything at this point. Michelle to get back to client – sell the high end car, get her cable, and cell bills down, and Michelle to look at financial statements. Board placed on hold until further information can be developed.

Sharon Bianchi, treasurer

Weekend mass deposits = \$997

Total checking balance after above deposit = \$24,907.69

Financial payments/approvals to clients at this meeting: \$3,919.68: (Campos = \$719.68, Bless = future payment up to \$1500, Longinetti = \$700, Trouw = \$1,000).

Jill Bradley, secretary

All board meeting minutes are up to date and approved by board members.

Potential of four new members in the process of completing FP and Virtus. Took four potential members off our list. Linda P. has followed up several times with no response from them.

Left voice message for Matt Howell. Per Gemma, he contacted her and will be starting to assist the food pantry next week. Mary Schwarz has been advised.

Meg Otchy, garden coordinator

For safety reasons – no staff member should work alone in the garden. Meg will discuss with staff. If for some reason a member is going to be alone in the garden, the member must come into the food pantry and advise Mary Schwarz of the time in the garden – entering and leaving.

The garden needs a new irrigation system. There is the possibility that a donation of \$5,000 from Elaine Certa-Morrison could be used for this project. Elaine attended the board meeting on May 6, 2024 and discussed donating to the garden and SVdP. In recognition, SVdP could purchase a large paver for that family.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator

Received dish detergent donation today from Every Stitch Counts, charitable organization that donates laundry and dish detergent to food pantries. Mary discussed donating laundry detergent with organization's representative (our pantry generally has to buy that) and the representative agreed to include in future donations. Great job, Kathy Minton and Mary!

Mary reviewed info from Dental Home Service, Dr. Stu Robin and his daughter Lindsay, who provide free home dental service to those unable to afford. Info is dentalhomeservice.com or 800-842-4663.

Reviewed proposals for food pantry cleaning service. Board approved proposal for every two weeks (\$80) until the end of December and will then re-evaluate.

Gen Yachnik, helping hands

HH will reopen to guests on Monday, September 23. In the meantime, staff will be working Mondays and Fridays transitioning from spring/summer to fall/winter clothing. NO SUMMER clothes to be donated now. Please hold any winter/fall donations for at least a week from now to give the staff time to appropriately transition.

Christine will return on Friday from her battle with COVID.

Gemma has donation of jewelry. Let Sue DeMillio take first look for items that would be appropriate for little girls – for the Toy Christmas ministry.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator

Twenty three members attending the Tuckerton Seaport event.

Boscov's fundraising money has started to come in. Hopefully all SVdP members will donate \$25, if financially possible for the member.

Kathy Minton, technology coordinator

Wrote letter to Fr. Michael and Kathleen Muzzio requesting dates to sell magic show tickets, pavers, and boscov coupons. Suggested the weekends of September 14/15 and September 28/29. Also referenced the sale of magic show tickets to CCD – working with Lisa. Kathy, great job on the letter.

Continues to update the Website.

Gemma:

Discussed the possibility of providing cookies to parishioners after the September 28/29 masses. That would be the same weekend as SVdP re-commitment at 10 am Mass. Paul Capelli will provide estimated cost of cookies.

Gemma and Kathy to provide certificates to consistent donors.

Per discussion with Kathleen Muzzio, SVdP will not be hosting a Sunday Social.

SVdP member collection for cash gift to Fr. Michael for becoming pastor - The board had suggested \$300 at prior board meeting. After today's meeting, collection was counted by Jill Bradley and Kathy Minton. Collected amount was \$350.

Commenced meeting at 4 pm followed by Debbie with SVdP closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, Secretary