

**St. Vincent de Paul
Board Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2024**

Website: svdpstluke.org

Present: Gemma Brennan, Sharon Bianchi, Joe Damato, Kathy Minton, Mary Schwarz, Barbara Neary, Ben Russell, Paul Capelli, Debbie Weingroff, Gen Yachnik

Absent: Jill Bradley, Meg Otchy

Gemma – commenced meeting at 1:15 pm followed by SVdP opening prayer by Debbie. Warm welcome back to Barbara Neary after a hospital stay. “Thank you for all the prayers.”

Home visit Presentations:

#1: Suzanne Tilton & Gin O’Boyle

Client #1, age 56 lives in Friendly Village. SVdP has helped client every year for the last 6-7 years. Last time was July 2023. Client had someone living with client previously, who recently passed away. Minimal Social Security Disability \$1111 + Food stamps \$271. Looking for 1 month rent \$468.42 (\$518.84 less late fees). Client had to have brakes repaired in car as the reason for being behind. Brakes repaired by friend/neighbor David for \$700. Eviction proceedings will start if not paid by 10/1. Late monthly with rent because rent is due on the 1st and SSDI received on the 3rd. Questions: Repair of car for \$700 – no receipts for parts or anything used. A handwritten note was received on Thursday at the CCF dinner since Suzanne and Gin told them about the dinners and they attended for the first time. Suzanne & Gin also went over all expenses and strongly suggested client call Xfinity to remove special channels, movies, and several of the cable boxes (had 3 in a small trailer) to reduce costs. Also, electric bill was \$298 on a budget. Seemed excessive since client also has gas. Requested that client also contact JCP&L to check. Suzanne & Gin are working to get client a Behavioral Health Counselor/Advocate to assist in further items like obtaining Medicaid. They will also follow-up with client. **Board approved \$468.42 for rent (w/o late fees).**

#2: Gemma Brennan – Intake information only – no decision

Client #2, age 41, spouse is 37 and disabled, 2 children – High school senior and 3rd grader. Client currently unemployed as a home health aide. Unemployment is \$1844 / month until November. Spouse is disabled with an auto immunity issue and cannot work (some days cannot get out of bed. When well helps with the children). Were living with spouse's mother, however, she sold home and moved in with a daughter. There was no room for the client & family to go there...so homeless. Rented a hotel room in Seaside and spent all their savings. Social Services referred them to SVdP. Contacted St. Justin’s and Rosemary Gobel at St. Joe’s Social Concerns. St. Joe’s has paid for 1 week in a hotel – now at the Bay Breeze Hotel in Seaside. Gemma will refer them to other services including Catholic Charities for help. Discussion around paying for hotel rooms as we decided NOT to pay for that. More information to come especially that they are St. Justin’s scope when they were living in the TR East area.

#3 Joe Damato & Michelle Jones– emergency email vote 9/25/2024

Client #3, getting divorced, 3 children. Moved from Monmouth County into Gabriel’s Run apartments in Toms River. **From Joe’s email:** “Client's case was referred to us by St. Denis in Manasquan and St. Mark in Brielle. St. Denis has a SVdP but St. Mark has a social concerns committee. They did the initial workup and determined that they could provide a total of \$2044. Initially, working with Pat Gibbs from St. Mark, I learned that client is going through a difficult divorce that started when client and spouse were living in Florida. When spouse lost job, they had no choice but to move back to New Jersey where they had left a few years earlier. The family of five is currently living in the spouse's mother's basement, and as you can imagine it's not the best environment. The mother-in-law wants them out by the end of the month, and fortunately client was able to find an apartment. Client needs to have the lease signed and the money delivered by 9/30. The total due is \$6750, and with the contribution of \$2044 from St. Mark and St. Denis that leaves \$4706. Client has saved \$2800 which leaves \$1906 left to pay.

Client currently has a good paying job that clears \$4000 each month, and spouse just found a job but this will not help immediately. The mother-in-law is not at all cooperative and does not want to provide any assistance; in fact, she wants her own child out of the house as well.

Michele and I were impressed on how this client has managed to keep the family together while in Florida with the spouse's lack of employment and while living locally under much duress. We are recommending the board approve this request for help. If we do decide to help, we will need a bank check as per the rental office's requirement.”

Board approved \$1906 toward rent/downpayment

Joe Damato – UPDATE:

Client #4, age 28, 2 children ages 8 & 6. Lives in Dover Chase Apartments. Significant other is out of the picture and no child support.

Board approved reallocating \$1000 to JCP&L instead of rent via email approval.

Sharon Bianchi, treasurer:

Current balance = \$21,525. This includes a deposit of \$674 from this weekend mass donations. Current Balance from Boscov’s is \$1420. The Family Fun Night deposit for this week is \$1245 – it is NOT included in the balance until all is settled with ins/outs.

YTD Treasurer’s Report given at General Meeting 2024-09-27 – as of August 31, 2024 (one month to go in the Fiscal Year) Note: of the 11 months, we had income > expenses in 3 months and that includes the Ash Wednesday collection (~\$14K).

Expenses:		
Those We Serve	\$75,058.89	72%
Supplies / Operating Expenses	\$ 3,317.13	3%
Food Pantry	\$ 17,856.16	17%
Twinning	\$ 7,671.76	7%
Bank Fees	\$ 209.25	.1%
TOTAL Expenses	\$104,113.19	100%

Income:		
SVdP Envelopes (incl. Ash Wed)	\$75,591.30	89%
Private Donations	\$ 4975.00	6%
Grants/Fundraisers	\$ 4586.00	5%
TOTAL Income	\$85,152.30	100%
NET Difference:	(\$18,960.89)	

Need Budget and Actual reports and further discussion on financial sustainability.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:

A person visited to provide a flyer on Marty’s Place- A Senior Pet Assistance Program. Will provide information to Home Visitors.

Fulfill representative visited the pantry. All is well. Asked if anything is needed. Mary requested a new laptop as the one used for pantry intake is old. Also asked for printer. Advised of grant program thru Fulfill which we should investigate.

A letter was received from Father Michael regarding the cleaning service. Per Diocese regulations, the cleaners must have insurance. Mary reached out to obtain a W-9 and COI. Cleaning is ON-HOLD until documents received.

Food Pantry at Night: Still more logistics to consider including security. Potential to have parish install a Ring camera. Mary requested a sign-up at the General Meeting for anyone wishing to help.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator:

Boscov's fundraising coupons have been sent to most everyone with **\$1420** total so far.

Looking at future restaurant "dine to donate" events – suggested BJs Brewhouse near the mall, Jersey Mikes in Silverton (Paul's son-in-law), Houlihan's and others.

Family Fun night – currently 109 tickets sold with 7 available for donation. Needed assistance will be finalized next Monday.

Discussion surrounding future fundraisers after Treasury report:

Golf Outing, Bus trip to Padre Pio in PA, Mardi Gras w/ donation to food pantry, Go Fund Me Charity page. Needs further discussions and plans.

Paul Capelli, Furniture coordinator

Gabriella from Redeem-Her House will be provided Living Room furniture and housewares- all is tagged in the warehouse. There was an issue with the initial delivery but will be revisited.

Gen Yachnik, Helping hands:

HH is considering to open on Friday October 4. Decisions still need to be made on the changes.

Jill Bradley, secretary:

Away for a few weeks. Kathy will manage minutes...Thank you.

Kathy Minton, technology coordinator:

Updating the website. Still have some Board Meeting Minutes to include there, but other event information is current.

Farro's is still providing the Online Store.

Gemma:

Community Comfort & Fellowship Dinner was well attended

SVdP General Meeting on September 27 went well. Guest speaker was from Contact of Ocean County to share some current important information regarding home safety for those who live alone.

SVdP Re-commitment Ceremony was very well attended. Gemma provided pins for everyone.

Kathy and Gemma will work on certificates for those who so graciously and continuously donate.

October 9, 2024 at That's Amore Restaurant – 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Farewell luncheon in honor of John Connelly. \$25 each person includes choice of 3 entrees, salad, soft drinks, tea, coffee, gratuity, and gift. Gemma will send out an email and payment/confirmation due on Monday Oct 7.

Planning a Retreat

Charlie Rott will NOT run the PAVER program any longer. Tom Jones will help. Discussion tabled.

Gemma - commenced meeting at 3:15pm after the SVdP Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Minton for Jill Bradley, secretary