

**St. Vincent de Paul
Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024**

Website: svdpstluke.org

Present: Gemma Brennan, Sharon Bianchi, Joe Damato, Kathy Minton, Meg Otchy, Mary Schwarz, Barbara Neary, Ben Russell, Paul Capelli
Christine Cotgreave, Sue DeMillio, Ed Rohloff

Absent: Jill Bradley, Debbie Weingroff, Gen Yachnik

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

Started with meetings that Gemma had since last week's board meeting: with Joan Olden – President SVdP Diocese, her Spiritual Advisor, and Joe & Gemma met with Father Michael. Father Michael's mission is to grow the faith of the community and participate in spirituality. SVdP is that in action of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Result is that Father Michael still wants SVdP to be a part of St. Luke's.

Gemma met with Kathleen Muzzio: "excellent meeting."

Due to rooms being used for Home Schooling 3x week, it is taking away from their "original" use. Therefore, rooms had to be switched around for the many meetings that occur in the Parish Center.

Result: Helping Hands can not put the items away in the Parish Center closet until after 1pm. Items may be brought to the end of the hallway, just not in the room.

Christine Cotgreave discussed the options for HH – 1) have another shift to put all items away 2) use the warehouse method as was done previously 3) take appointments only and then "pull" items from storage to have ready for the guest 4) Close in May 2025. She will discuss with HH ministry members and return information to the Board.

Sharon Bianchi, treasurer:

Current balance = \$23,244.30. This includes a deposit of \$683.48 from this weekend mass donations and \$445 from Boscov's this week. Current Balance from Boscov's is \$1245. The Family Fun Night deposit for this week is \$360 – it is NOT included in the balance until all is settled with ins/outs.

Sharon went to TD Bank and the Deposit Slip charge of \$174.25 was waived. Way to go Sharon!

Intake presentation: Joe Damato

Client #1, age 56 lives in Friendly Village. Client had someone living with client previously, who recently passed away. Minimal Social Security <\$1000 (believes it is SS Disability). Looking for 1 month rent \$493 since client had to have brakes repaired on car. SVdP has helped client every year for the last 6-7 years. Last time was July 2023. **Per Board approval, Joe will follow-up with verification and home visit.**

Joe Damato – home visit presentations:

Client #2, age 28, 2 children ages 8 & 6. Lives in Dover Chase Apartments. Significant other is out of the picture and no child support. Had health issues and could not work full-time resulting in arrears of \$6686 in rent (without fees, court costs etc.). Currently back working the full-time day job, and also started in September working a 2nd job at night at a group home for autistic children. Also studying and taking college classes online while there.

Catholic Charities has pledged to help client with \$5025 of the total rent in arrears. Balance is \$1661. Asking for \$1000 to help with rent.

Board approved \$1000 for rent.

UPDATE: via email from Joe 9/17/2024:

"I just learned that Catholic (Charities) was able to find additional funds to cover the entire back rent issue. Since we already agreed to help and client still has a **\$1993.98 electric bill for JCP&L**, could this money, \$1000, be used instead? I had mentioned that possibility at the meeting, but client had opted for the rent. By the way, client's apartment is all electric, so that would be a big help with winter

approaching and it would certainly make it easier for client to get a new start.”

Need to verify the email vote of \$1000 to JCP&L instead of rent at the next Board Meeting.

SVdP Member Cathy Englehart:

Since Cathy lives in the St. Joe’s Church area, any assistance would be thru St. Joe’s SVdP as we can not assist a current member of SVdP. We would twin with St. Joe’s SVdP if needed. Cathy appreciates dinners if anyone would like to help. Currently, there are no out of pocket expenses as the insurance is covering it. She will be living in an apartment soon. However, she may need some help later with furniture, appliances, etc. for items that will not be covered once her home is completed. Cathy appreciates all the prayers. If anyone would like to spend some time with her and perhaps offer dinner, please be in touch. Gemma was going to meet her this evening.

Note: Utility seminar: A prior guest went to the seminar and received assistance.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:

Cleaning service provided the initial “deep clean” with great results. Cost was \$80 + \$50 for 1st time cleaning. Mary indicated that the cleaners moved everything, cleaned all vents, and did a great job! Next time they will do extra cleaning on the tile floor where there are marks.

For the month of August, the Food Pantry helped 237 families consisting of 529 adults, 283 children for a total of 812 people.

There was a large donation in honor of Greg’s Birthday. Leisure Knoll indicated that SVdP -St. Luke’s was selected to received their donation from a food drive. Anticipate it running from mid-October to mid-November. Mary suggested the items for the Thanksgiving Baskets so there will be less to purchase.

Request: Kathleen Muzzio suggested that the Food Pantry may possibly be open 1 evening a week to accommodate anyone that can not attend during the day. The Board suggested a Monday night since CCD parents are around and it is not too “empty” in the parking lot. Mary will discuss with the team and consider the request. Lots of logistics to consider including limiting it to perhaps Redeem Her house residents and those from Home Visits who work and can not get to the Pantry during the day. The Board discussed the possibility of this exploding. The thought was to start in October and if moving forward would need permissions.

Issue: Last Friday 9/13/2024 a table fell over on a volunteer. She got a “goose-bump” but everything was OK. The table was moved and an accident report filed internally.

Issue: Epson printer is not working well and indicating “needs paper” when there is already paper in there. **Board agreed to purchase new printer.** Paul Capelli suggested a model that has the “tanks” of ink rather than cartridges. Mary will review.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator:

Tuckerton Seaport outing was a great day and trip...Bravo!

Bosco's fundraising coupons have been sent to most everyone with **\$1245** 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 – Sales of tickets were slow at church. Hopefully will pick up at CCD sales on 9/23 & 9/25. Kathy set up a personal Venmo account will advertise more on Facebook as well.

24 tickets sold and paid = \$360 deposited. Approximately 13-15 are promised and will be paid shortly. ****Reminder to Board Members to bring their check/cash and purchase their ticket on Monday.**

Paul suggested to have a Golf Outing next summer to infuse some dollars into the account. He will investigate as he has chaired that in the past. Looking at Summer 2025.

Barbara would like to have Mardi Gras event – looking at Friday Feb 28, 2025

Paul Capelli, Furniture coordinator

Client from Redeem-Her House will be provided Living Room furniture and housewares- all is tagged in the warehouse. As you may recall, client recently moved into a home with child. "Rosa" went above & beyond.

Meg Otchy, garden coordinator:

Matt MacCarrick to redo the beds in the fall. Meg will be in touch with him. Thank you, Matt.

There are fall lettuces, radishes and green beans currently doing well. Tomatoes were taken down and any unripen ones were taken home by Meg to ripen in egg crates.

Planning for 2025 is beginning. Scale back on early spring items since water is not on until early May. Do more green beans, melons and other items that did well this year.

Irrigation system is still an issue.

Helping hands:

See items under Gemma at beginning of document.

Sue DeMillio – Children's Christmas Toy Event

Signs in English and Spanish are ready. Sue will email to Kathy for inclusion on the website.

Ages newborn to 12 years old. Registration on Mondays and Fridays from October 7 thru November 15 from 9am to 11:30am. Pick up will be December 2 to 13 with December 16 as LAST DAY.

Central Ocean Rotary (contact Michelle Williams), Lake Ridge Cooking Club and Jersey Shore BBQ (Sue's son-in-law) will donate toys.

GARAGE is filling UP!! Looking for new toys, can provide gently used books.

Jill Bradley, secretary:

Away for a few weeks. Kathy and Debbie 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. Reminder at September meeting. Pick up 2 orders this week.

Gemma:

Community Comfort & Fellowship Dinner is September 26

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

SVdP Recommitment Ceremony is September 29 at the 10:00 am mass. Please wear your SVdP swag.

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

Gemma - commenced meeting at 4pm after the SVdP Prayer.

Please include all those who generously donate to SVdP, all of the Board Members, Stormy Rodger, Kathy's Mom Grace, and Father Michael & Kathleen in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Minton for Jill Bradley, secretary