

St. Vincent de Paul Board Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2025
website – svdpstluke.org

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

Meeting commenced at 1:35 pm with SVdP opening prayer.

Home Visitors Presentations

Theresa Hinds, client #1 – age 38, three children (11, 3, 6 months), lives at The Villages, Bey Lea apartments, spouse lost job, unemployment ran out, spouse moved out of the home. Spouse is back and couple trying to work things out. Spouse now working, client doesn't work. Income = \$3939.26 (spouse's employment) plus \$1000 food stamps, expenses = \$3772.64, net = \$166.62. Client in arrears in excess of \$8,888.79 not including the credit card debt of over \$10,000 (arrears ... rent \$5537, gas \$902.36, electric \$1145.76, water \$403.67, car \$900). Car is in the process of being repossessed. Also, possible eviction down the road. Awaiting decision from Family Promise (FP) but not likely to help as FP has limited money. **No decision made. Theresa to contact the apartment company** to find out what would be acceptable to avoid eviction before board makes any decision. However, given client's current financial situation, there is only \$166.62 monthly to offset all that is in arrears.

Michelle Jones, client #2 – age 28, 6 yr old child-very autistic, client unable to work when child is out of school, lives at Gabrielle's Run, other parent of child not in the picture but that parent's family helps client. Client is a dental assistant during school year and then cleans houses during the summer. Estimated income about \$2400 monthly (September-June) then \$700 monthly (July- August, off the books), expenses = \$2032. TANF thinks they can pay client's August rent. In arrears for: rent \$1868, gas \$108, electric \$472, water \$106, plus credit card debt. **Board approved payment of \$1016 – one month rent.**

Joe Damato, home visitor coordinator:

(for Cathy Engelhardt), client #3, age 38, three children (10,16, 21), no spouse involvement, lives at Hopes Crossing, works at RWJ Monmouth Medical as a CCP technician, older child also works there in patient transport. Has August 18 eviction notice. Income = \$4,000, expenses = \$3411, net = \$589. Client behind because of repair costs of vehicle = \$1598. **Board approved \$1,000 towards rent pending Joe's conversation with management that this would avoid eviction.**

(for Gil Kerrigan), client #4, child age 12, receives child support, lives at Bey Lea Village, Eviction Prevention Program paid rent from August 2016 – November 2024. Client works as Home Health Aid, income based on number of clients. Applied to Family Promise for assistance. Income = \$3155 (wages \$2400, child support \$570, food stamps \$185), expenses = \$3438, net = (-\$283). Rent is \$1730 and was in arrears \$5051, client paid \$3,000 (no info on where client got that money from) so now in arrears \$2051, other areas in arrears are: gas \$200, water/sewer \$291. **Board approved payment of \$1,000 to avoid eviction pending Joe's discussion with management to make sure they received the \$3,000 and will they accept the \$1,000 to avoid eviction.**

(**potential client #5**), age 42, one child, Joe was to meet but client unable to obtain a ride, lives at Oxford House, works at nail salon, Uber's to and from work. Income about \$2062. Looking to buy car- about \$3200. Joe to obtain further info from the client.

Gemma Brennan, president:

Client #6 UPDATE – discussed and approved \$1,000 at July 14 board meeting pending other payments come through. Board will not pay the \$1,000 because client advised other agencies that our SVdP would pay \$6,000 (client was well aware that SVdP was not going to pay the \$6,000).

Client #7 – long time client, we can no longer assist. Client approached Visitation Church for help. No! Gemma to contact client and advise that SVdPs can no longer assist.

Client #8 – age 34, Gemma received phone call from client who moved in with grandmother in Whiting, has no money and no clothes. Just got out of Suburban Health Clinic, Toms River (drug rehab). We can assist with food and clothing but not financially. Referred to St. John's and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton SVdPs. Gemma to bring food and clothing to client.

Financial payments to clients from this meeting: Potential of \$3,016 (\$1,016 pay to client #2), pending \$2,000 (client's #3 & #4).

Board Members Updates

Sharon Bianchi, treasurer:

-**Checking account balance = \$25,581.65** (includes mass donations of \$1,365).

-Home visitor files are incomplete. Please make sure all info is in the files and avoid the file /case being handled by numerous persons.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:

-Used gift certificate to purchase coffee.

-Gasket issue - possible cost of \$1,000.

Meg Otchy, garden coordinator:

-All is well, water is flowing and now can also be turned off! Crops growing well.

Gen Yachnik, helping hands:

-No longer accepting summer clothes. Please hold off fall/winter donations until August 25.

-In need of adult and children underwear, particularly boys age 6 – 18 years.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator:

-Boscov's will be in October.

Kathy Minton, technology coordinator:

-New office computer required to appropriately handle current needs.

-Working on modifications to files and spreadsheets.

Jill Bradley, secretary:

- Minutes up to date and on the website.
- Ministry List – 111 active members supporting 182 ministry positions. Not discussed but FYI – approximate members per each ministry: Food 58, Helping Hands 20, Home Visits 25, Intake 19, Garden 8, Fundraising 5, Toys 10, Technology 2, Furniture 2, Social Meetings 2, Clerical 7, Community Comfort and Fellowship Dinners 24.
- Potential four new members, one to food pantry/HH split, one to toy committee, one to home visits, and one TBD.

Gemma:

- Susan Sozzi and the Snyders to head up the Toy Drive Committee.
- Will meet with Chaplain Barbara regarding the status of the social services being able to provide financial support to clients. We continue to hear they have no money.
- August 13, County SVdP meeting at St. Joe's. Advise Gemma if you are able to attend.
- Vote on County SVdP president will take place on August 13. To date only two running for that position, one being Gemma.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm with SVdP closing prayer. Please include in your prayers: Gemma's sister Dawn, Marie DeSordi, Lucille and Deacon Joe, and Kathy's mom.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, Secretary