

**St. Vincent de Paul Society
Board Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2025**

Website – svdpstluke.org

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

Absent: *Sharon Bianchi, Joe Damato*

Gemma, president – commenced meeting at 1:30 pm followed by Debbie with SVdP opening prayer.

Home Visit Presentations

Michelle Jones (went with Tom Jones) – client #1, 50 yrs, lives at Eagles Crest for past seven years, has partner and two teen children. Client is disabled (leg from hip down) because of truck accident. Purchased a used car during COVID, now had to replace the transmission (\$5,000), paid \$2500 and still owes \$2500. Total income = \$4,000 (\$3,000- spouse works for the autistic community and \$1,000 SSDI for client.). Client does not work, would like to but not able to find job and if client did it would lower the SSDI. Expenses = \$3877, net = \$123. Spouse has student loan of \$50,000 for social worker degree.

Client able to pay the upcoming rent of \$1474 but rent is in arrears (\$1914.13) because of the car repair costs. Utilities also in arrears but client is working with the utility companies on this. Client has approached other organizations, Hope Center, Family Promise, Catholic Charities – none have any money. If SVdP pays the rent in arrears, client should be fine going forward. **Board approved payment of rent in arrears = \$1914.13.**

Gemma (for Joe Damato) – client #2, see January 27, 2025 minutes for background on this client. Needed \$600 to move out of rehab facility on Whitesville Road to the Phoenix House in Asbury Park. **Board approved payment of \$300** based on client stating client could raise the additional \$300. If client unable to raise the other \$300 (client to contact Holy Innocents SVdP in Neptune and other organizations), our SVdP will cover the remainder. Jill contacted the Phoenix House and advised them of the \$300, check cut and mailed. Also left message for client advising of the \$300 and stating to call us back if can't raise the other \$300 – made no commitment that we would cover the remainder.

Gemma – client #3, 80 + yrs, lives at Homestead Run, partner passed, now owns the house. Income is \$1597, no car, comes to food pantry and CCFD. Works part-time at a nursing home. Water heater broke – had to purchase a new one and take care of the clean up of the water. Needs assistance with gas (\$629) and water bill (\$408 – high because of the water leakage). **Board approved payment of both, total of \$1047.**

Gemma – client #4, no last name provided, single parent, three children (16,13, 6), no spouse, no child support. Six year old has CP, referred to SVdP by Arlene Gratzel, SVdP member. Lives at Burnt Tavern Manor, Brick and needs to move out. House is available in Beachwood, Section 8 housing. Client needs the security deposit of \$4,300 by the end of February to accept house. Client can provide \$500. SVdP can not afford and not in our jurisdiction. Possible twinning with other SVdPs (Brick and Beachwood plus Salvation Army). Income = \$2300 (\$1900-SSI, \$400-food stamps). No information on other income or if client works. Gemma to obtain further details. **Possible consideration of about \$1,000 twinning.**

Gemma – treasurer report (Sharon Bianchi absent) – deposit of \$1078.49. Total checking balance not available at this meeting.

Financial Payments to clients at this meeting: \$3261.13 plus potential of additional \$1,000 (Client #1- \$1914.13, Client #2 - \$300, Client #3 - \$1047, Client #4- potential of \$1,000).

Jill Bradley, secretary

- All minutes to date, approved and on Website.
- Two new volunteers now working at the food pantry.
- Working with Linda P on one new potential member.
- Will be updating the membership list for coordinators' review and additional needs. Will send out to board and coordinators within the week.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator

- Four locks will be replaced (outside pantry door, inside pantry door, conference door, and SVdP office door. Ten new keys (non duplicating) ordered, extras will be kept in SVdP safe. Distribution of keys will be monitored. Total cost \$546.
- January results: served 222 families (750 individuals comprised of 494 adults and 256 children).
- Will look for Fulfill's capacity grant to obtain new Fulfill computer.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator

- Awaiting responses for dine-out opportunities from Houlihan's, Jersey Mike's, Z Maria's.
- Contacted Fr. Alphonse for concert at St. Luke's. Father is receptive – cost \$12,500. Barbara will check Father's concert schedule, then also discuss with Kathleen Muzzio and Fr. Michael. Concert to be held in the church, capacity of 1,250. Board excited about this and believes it would be a great fundraising opportunity. Promote to other churches, schools, retirement communities, town/store flyers in Ocean County. Ticket prices for other Fr. Alphonse concerts range from \$40-\$50 pp. Generally a sell-out.

Paul Capelli, furniture coordinator

- On vacation from February 15 – March 15. Rosa from Vincent's Legacy is aware and will be the contact while Capelli's are on vacation. Still looking for members to be back-up for the Capelli's.
- Client for furniture will call back when feeling better.

Meg Otchy, garden coordinator

All is well, defrosting the cow fertilizer!

Gen Yachnik, helping hands

January results: served 96 families comprised of 241 adults, 131 children with 1,844 items for a total in-kind donation value of \$12,115.10.

Ministry will be closed from March 14 – March 28 for transitioning from winter to spring/summer clothing. Reopening on Monday, March 31. Hold off accepting donations during the closed period and after reopening only accepting spring/summer clothes.

Kathy Minton, technology coordinator

- Is considering working on the SVdP diocese website.
- Completed additional certificates of appreciation.
- Finance and statistics results are up on the website.
- Farro's site still closed. Kathy will be working with them shortly to set up shipping costs for out of county and state orders.

Gemma:

-February 16 – SVdP will host Social Sunday after each of the Sunday masses. All food and set up will be done by the Social Sunday Committee. Gemma to email members for volunteers.

-Meeting with Joan Olden to discuss our annual calendar, board reviewed and approved.

Regional and National are very comfortable with the actions of our conference along with the number of board and general meetings plus retreats/spiritual activities.

-March 27, retreat with Sr. Anita at St. Luke's. Cost is \$600. Will charge \$10 pp plus participants are to bring their own lunch.

-Code Blue Housing – Helping Hands provided excess hats, scarves, gloves; Food Pantry provided extra food; Frank and Deb Kelly have provided hot trays of food.

-SVdP fiscal results – will be placed on two large stand up poster boards for Narthex and Social Sunday.

-Susan DeMillio and Gemma meeting with Central Ocean Rotary of Toms River on February 18, present framed certificate and provide overview of SVdP results.

-Frank Kelly – unable to continue as board member due to other responsibilities.

*** Next board meeting – Monday, February 10**

*** SVdP closed on Monday, February 17, Presidents' Day**

*** General Meeting is Friday, February 21, 1:30 pm**

Gemma adjourned meeting at 4 pm followed by **Debbie** with SVdP closing prayer. Please add the following members to your prayers: Marie DeSordi, Bob Bauer, Ed Rohloff's wife, Mary's niece, Barbara (back in the hospital), Debbie's husband, Steve, Gemma and family, and Capelli's for a safe and enjoyable vacation.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, Secretary