

Saint Vincent de Paul Society  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 31, 2025

**Website:** svdpstluke.org

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

**Absent:** Gemma Brennan

**Joe Damato, home visit coordinator:** commenced meeting at 1:30 pm followed by Debbie Weingroff, spiritual director, leading the SVdP opening prayer.

### Home Visit Presentations

**Marlene and Chuck Kerns – Client #1,** 54 years, disabled, on oxygen 24/7, lives alone at Freedom Village, Section 8, rents apartment on first floor (rent = \$242). Has been living there for almost a year but has been back and forth between nursing home and apartment. Income = \$926.94 SSI, expenses = \$926.94, net = \$0. Just applied for food stamps and is now also on SVdP home delivery for food (client can't drive). Client is behind in gas and electric – result of being in and out of nursing home. **Board approved payment of \$367.41 (gas = \$205.15, electric = \$162.26).** Suggested client contact Care Givers, they can do some shopping and also the utilities companies, as they may be able to assist with future payments.

**Joe Damato - Client #2,** 47 years with three children (14,16, 20), divorced from spouse/parent of the children. Client was a bartender but lost job, now looking for work. The other parent lives in Montclair, child support was stopped but does pay for the cell phones and cable. Children had all been living with client, however, two are going to move in with the other parent. Client renting a house on Riverwood Drive, rent is \$800, house being sold, town taking over based on eminent domain. Total expenses = \$1,075, living off savings. Debt situation: in arrears for rent \$3200, electric \$393, credit card debt \$4,000, water \$358.53. Water was going to be shut off – Joe already agreed to pay the **water \$358.53** to avoid shut off. **Board approved.**

**Client #3,** 51 years with 11 year old child, Section 8, lives at Hopes Crossing. Ocean Christian Community Church paid client's monthly rent of \$1700 for a year. Income – TANF \$425.55 and food stamps \$535. No other information known at this time. Client requests help with car repair. Board recommended sending client to Craig and Lisa's. **No approval of any SVdP payment** until further details are developed to determine need.

**Client #4,** looking for additional payment for bills, declined. SVdP will **only provide food delivery.**

**Client #5,** see March 3 board minutes. At that meeting, SVdP approved payment of \$631 for annual insurance on client's trailer and \$500 for one month rent for total payments of \$1131.14. Client now looking for assistance to pay fee for records needed to straighten out his social security. **Case on hold.** Joe to obtain further details on cost and needs.

**Jill Bradley – Client #6,** board approved payment of \$1738 (March 30, 2025 email from Gemma and email vote) for medical expenses for child. Client would not be able to obtain housing voucher to move to SC unless this was paid in full. Gemma and Jill did on-line payment, using SVdP debit card to the medical organization. However, the amount due was \$1873.62. Board ratified this increased payment at this meeting. File turned over to Joe Damato.

**\*\*\*Motion made by Joe Damato** – *any future cases for financial assistance must go through the proper channels. Potential client should be directed to the phone number in the bulletin to make contact with the Intake staff. Once that is completed, Intake will forward information to Joe Damato for further contact by the Home Visitors. No other SVdP members should be involved in this process. **Board unanimously approved this motion.***

**Financial Payments approved at this meeting to above clients:** Total of **\$2,599.56**

**Paul Capelli, furniture coordinator:** furniture case for client residing at Meadow Greens apartments.

**Meg Otchy, garden coordinator:** Meg and Charlie Y meeting with Kendall from Fulfill tomorrow regarding the irrigation situation. Kendall seems to be very knowledgeable. Meg growing beets in pots.

**Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:**

-Silverton Farms brought over kale, lettuce, and mushrooms. Working on re-certifying clients, time consuming.

-Each Stitch Counts – donated 60 bottles of dish detergent and putting SVdP on a list for laundry sheets for clothes washing.

-Completed Fulfill grant request for new computer.

**Gen Yachnik, helping hands (HH):**

-Thank you letter sent to handbag donor at Redeem-Her House. Significant number of bags of donations came in today. Spent most of the day, sorting, distributing to HH, Steve or Veterans and tagging donations.

-In April will provide gowns/dresses/shoes/ handbags – weddings and prom attire.

**Kathy Minton, technology coordinator**

– Rotary Club of Toms River, Facebook account showing potential request for \$1,000 grant. Jill and Kathy will continue to check Facebook for this application.

– Noticed Gemma's pay pal account had \$200 donation that was to go to St. Joe's. Kathy and Sharon will look into this and correct.

**Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator:**

- Zi Marie's fundraising flyers (April 10, 11 am – 8 pm) distributed at all masses, CCFD, WWP and SVdP staff.
- Kathy and Barbara will have certificate of appreciation done for Zi Marie's.

**Jill Bradley, secretary**

- met with TD Bank. Mary Schwarz and Sharon Bianchi now added as signers for checks. Current signers – Mary, Sharon, Joe, Jill. All others have been removed (Charlie Rott, John Connelly, Kathy Catron, Tom Jones). Gemma – your name had to be removed, at this point, since signers had to resign together or we would not have been able to add Mary and Sharon. Once you are back, this can be revised to add you back.
- Five potential new members are in the process of completing necessary paperwork. Jill working with Linda Panaccione.
- All prior minutes approved and forwarded to Kathy for placement on our website.

**Debbie:**

- April 4, SVdP Stations of the Cross, Mary Schwarz and Frank Kelly will lead this. Debbie arranged for singer.

**Board discussion:**

Next general meeting had been set for Friday, May 23. That is the beginning of Memorial Day weekend. A number of board members will not be available. Board decided to cancel this meeting and handle any issues during the June 27 general meeting and prayer service. SVdP members will have to be notified.

Meeting adjourned at 3 pm followed by SVdP closing prayer. Prayers for Debbie and Gen – safe travels on your vacation, Gemma for a speedy recovery, and all others in need of God's watchful eyes and comforting hands.

Joe Damato will advise if meeting is necessary next Monday.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Bradley, Secretary