

Website: svdpstluke.org

Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024

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

Gemma, president: commenced meeting at 1:30 pm

Kathy Catron – home visit presentation

Client #1, 36 years, two children (17 and 8 years), lives at Hopes Crossing, separated from spouse/parent of children. Has been unemployed for seven months. Worked at a nursing home – left that job, too emotional for client to care for the patients. Currently looking for work. Income at this point = \$1168 (\$400 child support, \$768 food stamps), expenses = \$594.45, net = \$573.55. Client's mother helps with some of the bills. Michelle Jones pledged **\$440.52 for electric payment** as it was going to be shut off on December 2. **Board approved** Michelle's pledge – advise client to apply for affordable housing assistance since client has \$0 wage income.

Ed Rohloff – home visit presentation

Client #2, 45 years, six year old child, renting room in house in Pleasant Plains, spouse unemployed and not involved with family. Has roommates, pays rent to one of the roommates, not to the owner. Lease (doesn't look like a valid lease) from July 22, 2024 – July 22, 2025, rent plus utilities = \$1000. No income. Lived and worked at the Aztec Motel from April – October. Was denied unemployment. Has no car. Expects to be re-hired by Aztec in April. Only income now is \$536 food stamps. Has been job searching but no luck yet. Board is not sure why lease is July 22 when client was supposed to be living and working at the Aztec during that time. Request is for \$1000. Board not comfortable with this situation. Joe Damato will discuss further with the client. If Joe feels warranted, board approved **up to \$500** in rent assistance. Client was advised of agencies to contact for assistance.

Pat and Jeff Snyder – home visit presentation

Client #3, SVdP assisted client in 2014 and 2016. Has lived at Hopes Crossing for 14 yrs, client in 40's with 16 year old child. Client issues that resulted in falling behind in rent: 1. has severe medical issues (autoimmune disorder and sarcoidosis, requiring monthly infusions), 2. got COVID in August resulting in loss of two and a half weeks pay, 3. had leak and mold in ceiling which management fixed but charged client \$567 replacement cost of vanity, 4. has service dog but management made client see a psychologist for proof of need and charged client \$322 for doctor session, 5. August rent was raised \$200.

Appears Hopes Crossing is looking to have all Section 8 so they are guaranteed their rent payments. Above activities seem to be harassment of a non Section 8 tenant. Client works at a medical center in medical records. Income = \$3418 (\$194 of that is food stamps), expenses = \$3188, net = \$230. Rent is now \$1800 and client in arrears \$3000. If rent is paid past the 5th of the month, additional \$50 charge. If not paid until the following month, additional “legal fee” charge of \$672. **Board agreed to rent arrears payment of \$3,000.** There is no way the client can get out from under this unless SVdP steps in to assist the full arrears in rent.

Financial assistance approved: \$4314.02 (Client #1 = \$440.52, Client #2 = up to \$500, Client #3 = \$3,000, Pastor Rhett = \$373.50)

Sharon Bianchi, treasurer: deposits = \$1135, balance (including the deposit) = \$30,090

Gemma:

Chaplain Barbara, (South Toms River-Sadie Vikors) – last week SVdP provided her clothing and Christmas decorations. She will return on December 13 to receive a donation of the balance of toys not picked up, extra clothing, and any extra toys received.

Toy committee last day for parent pick up is Friday, December 13. Raffle gifts will also be done on December 13

Pastor Rhetta of Code Blue – **board paid \$373.50** for 10 mattress covers.

Extra clothing that Helping Hands can not use or store – being provided to All Saints Church, Lakewood.

Farro's Tees donation – will pick up December 13.

Community Comfort and Fellowship dinner, December 19, catered and donated by Zi Maria's restaurant.

For Meg Otchy – fifth garden bed completed, three more to be finished.

Jill Bradley, secretary: November 25 board meeting minutes – still need approval (Gemma).

Registration Forms for 2024-2025, 83 completed & reviewed by coordinators and Jill. Thank you, coordinators! Those forms will be given to Linda Panaccione. Twenty four (24) members forms are still outstanding. Jill will provide list of outstanding members to the appropriate coordinators next week.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:

Monday, December 16, next night time for the food pantry 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Mary advised Joe Damato and Lisa (CCD) again- no clients came to the November night time.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator:

Charlie Rott will now continue to run the paver program.

Paul Capelli, furniture coordinator:

Working on two cases – one for St. John's. Hopes all will be delivered this week/weekend.

Gen Yachnik, helping hands:

Hold off on any further donations in December except coats and Christmas decorations.

Helping Hands will be closed on Monday, December 23.

Kathy Minton, technology coordinator:

Finishing the certificates for specific donors.

Continues to update the website with information and pictures.

Gemma – adjourned meeting at 3:40 pm followed by Debbie with SVdP prayer. Please add the following to your prayer list: Carol Murtha (pace maker), Mary's niece, Barbara (ovarian cancer), and Vince Belfiore (passing of his brother and niece). **Next board meeting – Monday, December 16.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, Secretary