

Saint Vincent de Paul
Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2024

Website: svdpstluke.org

Present: Jill Bradley, Paul Capelli, Kathy Minton, Meg Otchy, Barbara Neary, Ben Russell, Mary Schwarz, Gen Yachnik

Absent: Gemma Brennan, Sharon Bianchi, Joe Damato, Debbie Weingroff

Jill Bradley - secretary – commenced meeting at 1:30 pm with SVdP opening prayer.

Gil Kerrigan – home visit follow-up presentation

Client #1, discussed at the October 21 board meeting, client wanted assistance with electric bill that was in significant areas (\$3371 when monthly bill was \$205). Board declined and provided a list of organizations for client to contact for assistance including the electric company.

Update – client worked out payment with electric company and now wants assistance with the rent. Client had been out of work for four months but received unemployment during that time. That job paid \$60,000 yet client is in arrears in many areas: electric, utilities, cell phone, etc. Client paid \$1100 towards electric bill, now short on rent.

Income = \$3498 (\$3098 wages, \$400 child support), expenses = \$3854, net = (-\$356). Rent is \$2190. Rents townhouse, has job as receptionist, and looking for a better job. Has been getting help from brother, parents, and older daughter. Client needs to get part time job, curb expenses and be proactive with other social organizations for assistance. Now suing ex-spouse for increase in child support, ex spouse stopped paying six years ago but client never pursued. Board members very uncomfortable with assisting this client. Do not feel our assistance will get client out of this hole unless client takes aggressive action. However, board willing to provide **half the rent payment = \$1095**. Also suggested client contact Ocean Inc for energy assistance program that may help with required payments. Client can not come back to SVdP for assistance for at least 12 months.

Sharon Bianchi – treasurer (Jill for Sharon)

Bank balance = \$25,416

Includes \$5,000 garden donation (Elaine Morrison) but not the weekend Mass donations.

Financial client support at this meeting: \$1095 (Holmes)

Kathy Minton – technology coordinator

All minutes are up on the website along with information on: Christmas Toy Ministry, list of Ocean County food pantries. Working on fiscal year ministry results.

Donor certificates completed.

Mary Schwarz – food pantry coordinator

Fulfill – provided 100 turkeys, has no meat, limited fixings for Thanksgiving holiday meals. Mary placed order for fixings. Mary's discussion with Fulfill – ok to only provide guest food once a month.

SVdP pantry is very bare, guest numbers continue to increase. For Thanksgiving meals - no boxed mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, or small cake mixes.

Called Mo Hill to see if he could assist with food needs.

Providing guests with list of other pantry locations in Ocean County – have evening and weekend hours.

Lake Ridge Community – provided food.

Cleaning service – has not heard back from the cleaning woman regarding the insurance.

Given the heaviness of the bags and transferring of items – need more members who can lift these without being hurt. Not too feasible that this can be accomplished given the age of SVdP members and parish members. **** Update after this meeting.** Jill contacted Kathleen Muzzio and Walking With Purpose Bible group. Kathleen will highlight needs in the parish bullet and WWP will hold a food drive from now through November 20. Mary ordered more items as they appeared on the Fulfill list.

Ben Russell-

Will work with Contact after training that is supposed to start in January.

Gen Yachnik – helping hands

Handbag event in November.

Looking for coats and blankets for men and women. Men's small and medium tops and pants.

Children needs – Boys (infant to size 8 youth), Girls youth size 4 – 6x.

Ron Russell donated 25 umbrellas – use them for guests as well as possibly for December general meeting give-a-ways. **Gemma – please note!**

Guests for Helping Hands should be clients of the food pantry only.

Meg Otchy – garden coordinator

Fiscal year results – 551 lbs. of produce. This is half of last year results because of summer heat and problems with the irrigation/watering of the plants. Will provide Kathy Minton with list of produce for the website. Tomatoes, cantaloupe, lettuce, garlic all did well. Cucumbers not good.

All wood has been purchased for bed replacement. Wood should last for six years. Per Jess at Fulfill – then consider cement beds (TBD in six years).

Members – need more people. Per Ministry List update, five of Meg's members did very little to assist.

*** - Garden Donation from Elaine Morrison, wants bench and plaque – Gemma please discuss with Barbara Neary. May be able to obtain a 20 % discount.*

Paul Capelli – furniture coordinator

Our Lady of Guadeloupe client – furniture need completed.

Christine Cotgreave, Helping Hands Coordinator – provided Paul with two guest needs. Paul working on those.

Barbara Neary – fundraising coordinator

Discussed Padre Pio bus trip – board had declined because of the length of the trip.

Mardi Gras event – needs to develop cost/benefit if want to provide crafts, etc. for children. Also need Fr. Michael's approval. Looking at cost/benefit of Ladies Tea and August dance.

No sale of pavers until 2025.

Suggest a quarterly dine-out for SVdP – look into restaurants that provide on total number of participants not just SVdP members at the restaurant.

Golf Event – Paul will provide guidance but a committee must be developed to run this event.

Jill Bradley – secretary

Minutes through October 21, completed, approved, redacted, and sent for web placement.

Current **Ministry List** sent to all board members and ministry coordinators for updates – due back to me by **Friday, November 9**. To date received from Intake, Garden, CCFD. Still need responses from food pantry, helping hands, home visitors, toys, fundraising, technology, furniture.

New registration form completed (all members must complete and update by year-end) for Linda Panacionne. Form is going up on the website. Jill will contact coordinators to have their members complete and return to the coordinator **by Friday, December 6**.

Next board meeting – Monday, November 11, 1:30 pm. Father Michael has been invited.

Adjourned meeting at 3:25 pm followed by SVdP closing prayer. Special intentions – please pray for Meg's nephew (Donald had stroke), Barbara's Aunt Mary (entered eternal life), Mary's long time friend (entered eternal life), Gen's friend Irene (having surgery) and all members and their families.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, secretary