

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2025**

**Website:** svdpstluke.org

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

**Absent:** none

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

**Home Visit presentations and updates:**

**Ramon Garcia: Client #1**, 38 yrs, single parent, two children (20 & 9), lives at Eagles Crest, Section 8, clinically depressed, worked part time for Google but lost job. The 20 year old child is the sole source of income working part time for supermarket, child's hours have been cut. Family has no car, internet, or TV and very little furniture. Income = \$1250, expenses = \$729, net = \$521. Rent is in arrears \$4100, monthly rent is \$424, rent has not been paid for 7-8 months. Client actively looking for work most likely as cashier. Client has been to court to work out a payment plan for the rent – Eagles Crest is willing to work with this client. Family Promise may also be able to assist but not for 30 days.

**Board approved payment of \$1800 for rent/electric.**

Mary Schwarz will consider them for home food deliveries, Paul Capelli will contact for furniture needs, suggest client also contact Catholic Charities and Just Believe, consider family for car if anyone has one to donate.

**Pat and Jeff Snyder: Client #2**, 41 yrs, two children (8 & 9), lives at Freedom Village for the past eight yrs, separated from spouse. Has equivalent of an education degree from the Dominican Republic, been in U.S. for 11 years and is a citizen. Will be taking the test for Bachelors Degree to be certified to teach K-12 education. Has been working as a bus driver for schools (\$30 per run), reduced runs because of school program cuts. Currently working for public and private (Jewish ) schools ( impacted by holidays for both – lessens the number of runs). Income = \$3284 (includes \$224 food stamps), expenses = \$2258.98, net = \$1028.02.

As a result of cut runs, rent is in arrears \$2079 and electric \$316.15. Client had also been sending money to client's mother in the Dominican Republic and for the care of a dog (given to the children by a relative for Christmas). Snyder's advised client must take care of client's family needs before sending money abroad. Board **approved payment of \$2395.15** (\$316.15 electric, \$2079 rent).

**Joe Damato – client and potential clients:**

**Client #3 – board approved gas bill of \$242.01.** Gemma provided update – Social Services Mental Health Department has been out to visit client and took pictures of living conditions. Social Services will be discussing options with their staff.

**Potential Client #4** - non English speaking – three individuals, ages 63,60,34, seasonal workers, live in Silverton – will advise clients that they must bring an interpreter with them for meeting with SVdP staff.

**Potential Client #5**, lives in Wisconsin, working in NYC as a writer, in rehab on Whitesville Road, looking for \$600 to move to Phoenix House in Asbury Park. Joe to develop more info or refer to Neptune SVdP or should this be a social services case not SVdP.

**Sharon Bianchi, treasurer** - Checking account balance = **\$32592.52 (includes the weekly Mass deposit of \$586).**

**Financial Payments for clients at this meeting = \$4437.16** (Client #1 = \$1800, Client#2 = \$2395.15, Client #3 = \$242.01).

**Jill Bradley, secretary**

-All 2024-2025 registration forms have been completed, provided to Linda P. and copies to Kathleen Muzzio for church files. Conference Room Registration Forms File – has the current blank forms now in it.

-Board ratified rent payment of \$1350, from board approved email of January 24, 2025 for Eagles Crest

-All board minutes to date are approved, redacted, and on the website.

-Contacted two new members (M. Newell, K. Traina), set up meetings with Mary, will hopefully assist the food pantry.

**Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator**

-Frank Kelly's brother-in-law will meet with Gemma and Mary to discuss options for locking food pantry doors. Board consensus is to replace the locks, get new keys, and have a limited number of staff responsible for these.

-Met with Maureen Newell, new member, now working with the food pantry. Will meet with Kathleen Traina.

**Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator**

-Consider Houlihans for dine-out fundraiser, looking into Jersey Mike's.

-Left message with Fr. Alphonse staff for potential concert.

-Consider dance the end of September (DJ cost \$300 and need liquor license).

**Paul Capelli, furniture coordinator**

-Two furniture deliveries done. Elizabeth Ann Seton staff (EAS) has been trained by Capelli's.

-Capelli's will be on vacation from February 15 to March 15 – will need coverage, perhaps the staff at EAS can assist.

**Meg Otchy, garden coordinator**

-Meg obtained the Poinsettia plants dirt for use in the garden!! Way to go, Meg.

**Gen Yachnik, helping hands**

-Thank you, Arlene Gratzel for donation of children's coats from her church in Island Heights.

-Will be having a handbag event if any have gently used donations.

**Kathy Minton, technology coordinator**

-Grant writing course – Kathy, Ben Russell, and Paul Capelli will be attending.

-All donor certificates, to date, have been completed.

**Gemma**

-Met with Joan Olden, regarding one member's issues with number of meetings/spirituality. Reviewed with Joan our general and board meetings dates, board minutes, and website. Joan wants to show the website to the Diocese – very impressed. No issues with what we have in place, per Joan.

- Should CCFD have a representative on the board – per board YES!
- Code Blue Shelters – looking for volunteers to cook, bring food and clothing.
- Next SVdP county meeting, February 12, advise Gemma if attending.
- Reviewed and board approved the proposed 2025 SVdP calendar of meeting days and events.
- Discussed potential SVdP volunteering to host one of the Social Sunday weekends. SVdP would not be providing or paying for the food – just assist with the set up, break down, and serving. Gemma will discuss with Kathleen Muzzio.

**Reminder – General Meeting is February 21, 1:30 pm, Parish Center!**

**Gemma** – adjourned meeting at 4 pm followed by SVdP closing prayer from **Debbie**. Please also include in your prayers: Mary's niece, Barbara; Meg's brother, Tom (surgery); Marie DeSordi; Bob Bauer; Ed Rohloff's wife, Diane; Kathy Minton's friend, Frank Lawrence who entered eternal life.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Bradley, Secretary