



svdpstluke.org

May 16, 2025

General meeting

Meeting will open with our prayer

Please remember Archie Miller (one of our founding members who has now moved into memory care facility near his family in Lawrenceville, NJ); Debbie Weingroff (our spiritual advisor; recovering from surgery); Dave Ertle (our volunteer Sally Ertle's husband) - Dave will be given a new experimental medication for his current lung condition; Marie DeSordi (Marie has been a long-time member volunteering with our pantry. She was home for a short period of time and is now back in the rehab center). Please remember those who are not feeling well, and please keep in prayer all members of our conference, their families, our guests, and those who donate to our ministries.

Welcome new members: personal introductions....

Currently, we have 110 members (yeah!)

Time of gratitude to:

Dianne Picciotti: (member since 2011) Today we will present a plaque to Dianne who has moved and will no longer be able to be an active member of SVdP. We are grateful for her dedication to our conference and the mission and vision of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Dianne will be very missed!!

Guest speaker: We welcome the representative from Community Memorial Hospital who will share with us important, and up to date information, in reference to the SNAP program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and how this program can support our guests.

Ministry updates:

Community Comfort and Fellowship Dinner: Coordinator Marie Alfano and liaison Aurora Ormsby for CCFD. Dinners are continuing to be on the last Thursday of each month. The volunteers have made this to be a remarkably successful ministry. Approximately 60+ people attend each dinner. We have been working closely with the chef of ZI Marie's restaurant who has been beyond generous with meals donated for our dinners.

Correspondence: our member, Colleen Kehler, continues to write the SVdP thank you letters expressing our gratitude for donations more than \$250.00 or if a donation is made in memory of a SVdP member or a member of our parish. We are grateful for her time and talent.

County SVdP Scholarships: Two high school students from our parish are the **recipients** for this year's scholarships. Both students will be attending Donovan Catholic.

County meetings:

- Several members of our conference have been attending the **Zoning Board meetings** with regard to having the first homeless shelter in Ocean County. The last meeting will be held on May 22nd at Town Hall at 6:30 PM. If possible, please attend the meeting in support of this effort. The Housing and Homeless Coalition located at the day center (405 Washington Street) offers for those who need additional help, important resources, plus, at times, haircuts, showers, and occasionally a place to do laundry. However, **a shelter is a needed support** that our County does not offer at this time. I remain on the Board for this Coalition along with representatives of the local faith communities and members of the county who support this goal. Our county is one of the few counties within the State that does not have a shelter.
- In April, I attended the meeting with the Board of Social Services, along with many of the SVdP presidents of Ocean County. The most updated booklet of services was shared with us. There was an insightful and important discussion of how we can all work together with the common mission to serve residents of Ocean County.

Food Pantry: coordinator Mary Schwarz (mschwarz23@comcast.net)

- Special thank you to our member, Roxanne Reuther, and her sorority members of Alpha Delta Kappa, along with our CCD parents, for the Easter Baskets they donated to the pantry.
- The number of guests is increasing, however the amount of food from Fulfill is decreasing. We are in the process of seeking out other community resources.
- We are considering a translation tool call Translate Live that we believe may be very helpful for both the Food Pantry and Helping Hands for when we have non-English-speaking guests. The tool is \$1500.00; we will contact the company for a demonstration.
- The number of families served by our Food Pantry:
February/ total of 699 adults and children
March/total of 699 adults and children
April/total of 655 adults and children

Thank you to Frank Kelly who has taken on the responsibility of coordinating our substitutes for the food pantry and each of the shifts on Mondays and Friday! (fjkelleire@me.com)

Furniture: coordinators Paul and Pat Capelli (pcapelli56@gmail.com)

- Pat and Paul have been our furniture coordinators for several years. They are now involved in helping to train members of other conferences of SVdP on how to compete the process of getting furniture to families in need. This is a very rewarding ministry due to the positive (and joyful) interaction our members have with our guests. If you would like help volunteer, please contact Pat and Paul.

Fundraising: coordinator Barbara Neary (hellonwheels67@aol.com)

- Our most recent “Dining for Dollars” was made possible by the chef from Zi Marie’s restaurant. The donation of \$347.00 is a percentage from the dinners served on our designated day. The chef is very pleased with the relationship that has evolved with our parish, and several ministries are now working with the chef for other events at ST. Luke’s.
- The next event is at Jersey Mike’s on June 10th. The “Dining for Dollars” is an all-day opportunity at the Jersey Mike’s in Silverton (Toms River) next to Silverton Pharmacy on Hooper Ave. We will need volunteers to pass out flyers after each of the masses on Saturday, May 31st and Sunday, June 1st. Please see Barbara after the meeting to sign up to help with this event.
- Fall fundraiser is our annual Boscov’s “Family and Friends Day.” Details will follow as we get closer to the date.

Garden: coordinator Meg Otchy (megotchy2@gmail.com)

- As of this spring we have new vegetable beds, a new irrigation system, repairs are completed on the well pump, and many plantings are already flourishing. Tomatoes have been planted, and the volunteers have also planted peppers and cantaloupe.
- Meg is always in need of volunteers to help in the garden!!
- This summer we will have three **high school students** who will volunteer part time with the garden along with helping in the food pantry and Helping Hands

Grants: Paul Capelli and Kathy Minton

- Paul has attended several days of workshops offered by Ocean County College on grant writing and grants that are offered to organizations like SVdP. He and Kathy Minton will pursue grants as they become available, and the focus of the grants will be for our food pantry. Paul’s first effort will be for the Toms River Rotary Club grant.

Helping Hands: Coordinator Christine Cotgreave (BlueDevil1191@live.com)

- Data collected from the last three months:
February: 112 families consisting of 246 adults and 163 children with a total of 1,653 items with an in-kind value of \$13,021.55
March: 64 families consisting of 144 adults and 91 children with 932 items with an in-kind value of \$1,204.75.

April: 98 families consisting of 228 adults and 173 children with 1,360 items with an in-kind value of \$15,305.50. The handbag event was extremely successful. The members of this ministry are planning a "Swimwear" event for June. At this time swimwear, and beach towels for men, women and children is needed. The members of this ministry make each event very special ☺
(in-kind is a non-monetary contribution)

Hot Line and Home visitors: Coordinators Joe Damato (ajax50@aol.com) /Michelle Jones (mmj8588@verizon.net)

- Our Hot Line volunteers are the first volunteers our guests speak with when reaching out to our conference. They offer a list of local services, and then contact our coordinators to set up meeting times with our volunteers to complete home visits.
- The number of requests from local residents is continually increasing and the financial concerns are demanding due to the increase of the cost of rents in our area and the need for affordable housing. Recently the members of our Board, along with two other conferences, helped a family move to South Carolina where they could receive the necessary housing support.
- We have had **18 cases** from **February -April** with several cases still pending
- If you would like to volunteer as a home visitor, please contact Joe or Michelle

Pavers: coordinator Charlie Rott

- We are continuing to receive orders for new pavers for the Celebration Garden. Charlie, along with Tom Jones, has stayed steadfast with completing the orders and the placement of the pavers in the garden.
- A goal this summer, since we will have some high school students volunteering with us, is to complete some additional landscaping around the garden area.

Registrar: Linda Panaccione (lin.panaccione@gmail.com)

- All new members should contact Linda to complete the process of fingerprints and Virtus training. Linda, and our secretary Jill Bradley, complete the necessary paperwork and contact information for the members of our conference.

Retreat: Sr. Anita (Sister of Charity) was the presenter for this year's very successful retreat. We are meeting with Sister in June to discuss next year's retreat and topic. Many thanks to the members who were extremely helpful in setting up for the retreat; their help was exemplary!!!

Secretary: Jill Bradley – we express our constant gratitude to Jill for taking most copious notes every week at our Board meetings. All minutes are kept on file, are on our website, and are shared with the auditor when requested. Jill also helps to coordinate information for new members.

Sunshine Club: coordinator Karen Rott

- Karen is our Vincentian who organizes the Sunshine Club. She writes out and sends get well and sympathy greeting cards to our members and their immediate families, as well as mass cards in remembrance of members who have passed way. Our membership has always felt that receiving a get well or sympathy card brings a gentle connection within our conference members at a difficult time. This communication brings the 'ray of sunshine' and a feeling of peace, plus it is encouraging and comforting to know our Vincentian sisters and brothers are praying for us and thinking of us.
- At this time, we have \$150.00 in our fund to cover the cost of the mass cards, stamps and greeting cards. Sometime during this year, we will ask for a small donation from the membership. If you have cards you can donate, please bring them to the pantry on Mondays from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM or bring the cards to Karen's home mailbox: 2668 Lancaster Lane, Toms River.

Technology: Kathy Minton/ web page master

- Please continue to access our website. Our agenda from the general meetings, president's notes, Board minutes, fundraisers, plus other useful and current information is always updated.
- We recently received a check from Farro's tees for \$79.20. This is a % donation from Farro's Tees for ordering our SVdP clothing from the company. Please continue to order our SVdP clothing. Kathy is always available to help with ordering the clothing items, and all items are available online.
- Kathy helps out with all our ministries as needed; her time and skills are very much appreciated!

Time Sheets: member Sue DeBella (sdebella814@gmail.com)

- Please remember to hand in your time sheets on a monthly basis: if a month passes, and you have not completed your time sheet please still hand in the information. Sue collects and records the data on a continuous basis.
- Time sheets are available in the conference room and completed sheets can be placed in the pantry/ or the timesheets are found on our website and can be emailed to Sue.

Toy Drive: we need a coordinator for next year☺ Sue DeMillio will stay on as a consultant

Treasurer: member Sharon Bianchi

Figures from **February through April** (previous updated information was given at our last general meeting)

- **Total Cash during this time period: \$24,029.02**
Envelopes \$14, 742.97 (parishioners)
Ash Wednesday: \$9,176.05 (donations by parishioners)
Pavers: \$110.00
- **Total Expenses: \$23,599.67**

Those we serve	\$15,032.87
Support /operating costs	\$2,546.74
Food pantry	\$2,746.66
Twinning	\$1,000.00 (working with other SVdP conferences)
Van expenses	\$50.56
Cases (home visits)	18
Net gain	\$5,871.00

Respect Life Cohort: contact Al Kozikowsky /meetings at St. Joseph's Parish

- 1x per month/1st Wednesday/St. Joseph's Church Parish meeting center/7:PM/meetings are 1 hour.
- Asking for a representative from St. Luke Parish*****

*Thank you to Annette Aversa and Mary Jo Phillips for their **constant** help as our Social Committee coordinators.

*Lucille Zelinsky: we want to express our gratitude to Lucille for her years of dedication and commitment to SVdP. Lucille will no longer be able to stay on as a volunteer. Lucille and her family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Funeral service for Marie Alfano's brother, John Sublett, will be held on Tuesday, May 20th, at 10:30 AM at St. Luke's

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success. "

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Warmest regards always

Gemma

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