

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY EVANSVILLE DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 1, 2024

- **6:02PM** President Dan Miller called meeting to order in Rager Hall of Sts. Mary & John parish
- **IN ATTENDANCE:** Executive Board Members Dan Miller (President), Jeff Kropfl (Vice President), Melanie Seibert via telephone (Treasurer), Rosemary Beckman (Secretary), Sr. Doris Clippard (Spiritual Director), Joe Cook (Executive Director), Noah Werner (Dir. of Case Management), Mike McKee (Thrift Store Advisory Chair), Sr. Donna Herr (Food Pantry Director)
- **OPENING PRAYER:** Led by Sr. Doris
- **RULE 3.11:** “Following Christ's example, the Presidents at all levels of the Society endeavor to be servant leaders. They provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put into service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The president of the Conferences or Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.”
- **MEETING MINUTES:** The September 3, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as written
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Melanie reviewed the Financial Statements as of August 31, 2024

District Council

• *Slight uptick in donations in Aug.

*Walk for Poor Corporate sponsorships 28K, 5.5K behind this time last year

*Interest Income up about 20K year to date

*10K of conference grants made in Aug. Conference grants down about 25K YTD

*Program expenses up about 4K YTD which is offset by grants received

*District Council received a 10K grant from National in Aug to use for the required compensating balance for microloan program

*13K net income for Aug and YTD loss of \$119K

Food Pantry

*Donations down 8K for Aug and YTD about 55K behind last yr (17%)

*Aug food purchases were even with last Aug and that has not been seen for some time. YTD food purchases up 33K (24%) from last year

***Other operating expenses in Aug even with last year and YTD operating expenses about 9% or 11K more than last year**

***YTD deficit is 25K compared to 74K surplus of last year**

Thrift Store

***Aug. sales down 10K (17%) from last Aug and behind about 32K (5%) for YTD**

***Aug payroll expense down about 4K over last Aug. Other expenses even with last Aug. *Net profit for Aug was 7.5K and 103K YTD**

There were no questions on the Financial Statements

- **CENTERPOINT: No answers or updates. CenterPoint is hosting an Agency Networking Meeting at 9am on Wed., Oct 16 at CenterPoint Plaza. RSVP to Jared Wells. We hope to get answers at this meeting**
- **REMINDERS: Annual Reports need to be completed after Sept 30 (deadline 11/30/24). Information has been emailed to Conference Presidents and Treasurers to help with Annual Reports and other year-end items.
With the Annual Report include bank balance as of 9/30/24 and list of all single donations of 1K or more. Include name, address of donor and approximate date of donation. Melanie also requests periodic review and updates of membership lists in the National Directory**
- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Joe distributed to all a detailed report. A synopsis of this report is given here:**

Friends of Poor Walk

\$34,100 gross (\$33,899.90 net*) 60 sponsors. Special thanks to 5 Title Sponsors - Tri-State Bearing, Chad and Lori Harmon Family, Hometown Ophthalmology, Hook's Apothecary, Len Will Family. Designated for conferences \$10,387.05 (gross) \$10,373.71 (net*) *minus credit card processing fees.

Friday Knights Hunger Bowl

Efforts of area Knights of Columbus Councils resulted in donation to SVDP Food Pantry of \$26,470.43 (gross)/\$26,417.59 (net). We are grateful to the KofC Councils and the co-creators of this event, Mark Hackert, St. Benedict Council 7544, and John Sandwell, Auxilio Corpus Christi and St. Philip 16454.

Grants

For rent and utilities - an anonymous gift received through a foundation in Western Pennsylvania/Eastern Ohio in amount of 25K. It will be distributed evenly 5 ways

to All Saints, Annunciation, St. Boniface, Sts. Mary & John conferences and for calls for assistance from Hispanic/Latino families under St. Clement conference stewardship

For Security of Physical Buildings - DC awarded grant from Dept. of Homeland Security to increase security at Thrift Store and Food Pantry. Purchase and installation of security systems for both locations will be handled by BCS Services, a local company with experience installing/upgrading security systems in several Catholic schools and parishes in the area. BCS Services owner, Jason Buchanan, is member of Resurrection parish and serves on Mater Dei President's Council.

Forward Together: City of Evansville grant program to non-profits from interest raised on unspent funds from Rescue Plan Act. No word yet on this

Westside Nut Club: We were not selected recipients of funds from 2023 Fall Festival

Tons of Toys: Donations accepted Mon., Nov 25 to Fri, Dec 13. Online donation portal open Nov 25 through Dec 20. Self-referral is not ideal but it saves burdening conferences with interviewing so many participants. We can compare our list with Salvation Army's "Toy Town" program. Suggestions for improving the referral process are welcome by end of Oct to incorporate in Nov rollout. Volunteers appreciated for toy pick up from sponsor businesses. Shifts will be needed.

End of Year (EOY) Reports: Forms open on national website <https://svdpmembers.com>. Joe will be running reports for each conference EOY numbers. Conferences that use Charity Tracker for year end reports will receive totals from Joe. A lot of clean up to perform is anticipated. With the new fiscal year Joe encourages using process uploaded in Members' section of Resources page under header Charity Tracker. "Entering Assistance Periodically Tutorial Video" goes through process of record keeping for hours volunteered, types of visits, number served, mileage and in-kind donations of goods and services. A companion instructional PDF is also helpful. Other PDF worksheets can be used for individual Vincentians to track data and a 'tally' sheet for tabulating. Using these resources greatly assist in accurate record keeping for annual reports

Delivery Fees on Appliances: Store credit at Goodman Creek has been depleted. This means delivery fees for appliances obtained by vouchers will need to be paid by either the conference or the customer.

Property Ad Hoc Committee: The Thrift Store manager and Property Ad Hoc Committee identified a number of changes that would improve store operation and customer experience. Further discussion still needed. It was determined no more

space needed for donations and processing and no more retail space is needed. Adding office and meeting space in the future, however, is still a consideration.

Bridges Out of Poverty and Getting Ahead Cohort: Joe will complete instruction to become a “Bridges Out of Poverty” trainer. He and Noah will then be certified trainers in Bridges material. The local steering committee is working on plans to further achieve the purpose of building a “Bridges” community in Evansville. Joe and Noah are members of this area steering committee.

Cardinal Award: We received the Indiana Broadcasters Assoc. Cardinal Community Service Award for helping our community through the Tons of Toys Program. The award was aired on WIKY radio station recently.

- **THRIFT STORE REPORT:** Mike McKee provided a detailed ‘Thrift Store Voucher and Volunteer Tracking’ report for fiscal year 2023-2024. Besides volunteer hours for each month, the report included monthly figures for clothing, beds and furniture purchased via conference vouchers given to the needy. Mike also noted traffic flow to the store continues to be adversely affected by road construction.
- **FOOD PANTRY REPORT:** Sr. Donna Herr reported 2,437 persons in 1,101 different households were served in September. This was slightly less than Aug. Volunteer hours were 1,000 (an approximate average per month). The food pantry annual inventory was taken on Sept 23 resulting in a monetary value about 5K more than previous year. 6 volunteers helped with taking the inventory. The amount received through the 2024 Knights of Columbus Hunger Bowl (Mater Dei vs Memorial football game) was a bit over \$26K.
- **ON-GOING BUSINESS:**
 - *Chairman of Food Pantry Advisory Committee position is still open.
 - *Ozanam Orientation will be held Sat., Oct. 26 at St. Benedict Woodward Center @ 9am. Registration is still open. Jasper DC Ozanam Orientation is Sat., Oct 5 at St. Joseph in Bramble
- **NEW BUSINESS:** None at this time
- **REFLECTION AND ACTIVITY:** SVdP Visioning Process.

After viewing an introductory video of welcome, reflection on Rule 1.6 ‘Adaptation to a Changing World’, the Context of a Changing World (Covid/ Post Covid world, aging society, increased secularization, changing economy, church closings, political polarization, etc.); National President, John Berry, explained VisionSVdP is a “family conversation” over the next 2 years to answer the call in our rule to “adapt to a changing world”. And in this conversation every voice matters.

We then divided into 3 groups of about 10 in each group to converse about the Society of SVdP. What is good about it? Not good about it? What are we doing right? What could we do better? What's enriching your spiritual life as a Vincentian? Etc. Each group had a moderator and a scribe. Each person in each group gave a sentence or two in regard to some of the questions noted above or other thoughts they wished to express regarding SVdP. The comments were recorded by the scribe. All were to speak uninterrupted. Following the group listening session there was meditation.

The scribe will later type up the comments of the group and submit to Joe. The conferences, in turn, will hold their own 'conversation' / listening sessions and record remarks. Dan and Joe will help with the technology (PowerPoint) if requested. Talking, listening, respecting every person's view at all levels and works of the Society - then planning how we move forward is the purpose of VisionSVdP.

- **ROLL CALL of Conferences:** St. Matthew absent.
New members, ill or deceased Vincentians: none
Announcements: The next DC meeting is November 5, 2024 at 6pm in Sts. Mary & John Rager Hall.
- **CLOSING PRAYER:** Sr. Doris led us in reciting the SVdPVision Prayer
- **MEETING ADJOURNED 7:35pm**