

SVDP DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2024

Dan Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 6pm, Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at Sts. Mary & John parish in Rager Hall.

In attendance: Executive Board Members: Dan Miller, President; Jeff Kropfl, Vice President; Megan Charlton, Secretary; Melanie Seibert, Treasurer; Sr. Doris Clippard, Spiritual Advisor; Joe Cook, Executive Director; Noah Werner, Director of Case Management; Melissa Coleman, Thrift Store Manager; Mike McKee, Thrift Store Advisory Chair; Carolyn Harmon, Food Pantry Advisory Chair.

Minutes. *The meeting minutes from the February 6, 2024 District Council meeting were approved unanimously by the District Council.*

Financials. The District Council Financial Summary from October 2023 to January 2024 was brought to the attention of the District Council.

The District Council has a year-to-date loss of \$32,000 more than the first four months of last year. This is due to a decrease in District Council donations, as well as the Friends of the Poor Walk expenses in September being paid in October.

Food Pantry donations remain even when compared to last year.

Year-to-date Food Pantry food costs are up about \$17,000 when compared to last year.

Food Pantry operating expenses are up about \$6,000 when compared to last year, due to increases in maintenance costs.

Food Pantry year-to-date net income is \$33,000, which is down about \$20,000 from this time last year.

Thrift Store income is running about 7% ahead of last year.

Overall Thrift Store expenses are down slightly, due to savings on truck maintenance.

Thrift Store net income is about \$20,000 ahead of last year at this time.

The Treasurer's Financial Report was approved unanimously as reported to the District Council.

\$1,000 Donor List. Each conference needs to send Melanie a list of all \$1,000 or more donations from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. If it is possible please also include the donor information. If any of the conference's donations are funneled through the parish, these also need to be included if any of these individual amounts were \$1,000 or more. If conferences did not receive any donations of \$1,000 or more, please let Melanie know this information.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace. A handout explaining the Sleep in Heavenly Peace referral process was brought to the attention of the District Council. A home visit is required for a family to participate in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed program. A referral for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program should be placed through the St. Vincent de Paul website member's page. Bed referrals submitted by organizations are moved to the top of the delivery list, however there is currently a 2-3 month backlog of agency-referred families on the waiting list. The conference president of the referring conference should receive a phone call regarding if the bed delivery was successful or not. If the delivery was not successful, the Vincentian can reach back out to the family to try and find out why the delivery was not successful and possibly set up another delivery through a new referral. If the delivery was successful Donna Hurm, our staff accountant, will note this into Charity Tracker.

Friends of the Poor Walk. This year, the annual Friends of the Poor Walk will be held on September 28th. The District Council is asking parish conferences to approach their Catholic School Principals about letting our District of St. Vincent de Paul speak to the kids about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in anticipation of the Friends of the Poor Walk. Joe presented a handout to the conferences that have a parish school explaining the sentiment of trying to get children involved with this event.

Community Development Block Grant. The Executive Director's office has applied for the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of a \$20,000 grant. In past year's the Executive Director's office has been awarded this \$20,000 grant to go toward District Council salaries.

Community Good Grants. The Executive Director's office has applied for the Community Good Grants Program. If awarded, this will go to funding for Thrift Store beds for the Prevent Child Abuse program. In the past, the Executive Director's office has been awarded this grant for beds for the Prevent Child Abuse program.

Evansville Endowment Fund. The Food Pantry was granted the funds from the Evansville Endowment Fund for the installation of a new outdoor electronic sign. The Food Pantry sign installation has been on pause until the variance has been approved by the County. On March 21st, the variance application will be reviewed for approval or denial.

United Way and Lilly Endowment. There is a large grant available through United Way and the Lilly Endowment, for capital projects. The Endowment is accepting project applications up to \$1.5 million dollars until 2028. The Thrift Store construction project could potentially qualify for this project.

Evansville West Side Nut Club. The Executive Director's office has applied for a \$10,000 grant to the West Side Nut Club. These grant funds are from the Evansville Half-Pot fundraiser during the Fall Festival. If awarded, these funds will go toward Thrift Store bed purchases.

Centerpoint Energy Foundation Grant. The Executive Director's office has applied for a \$20,000 grant to the Centerpoint Energy Foundation. If awarded, these grant funds would go toward direct client assistance with rent and water.

Centerpoint Energy Hearing. A handout explaining the possible Centerpoint Energy rate increase was brought to the attention of the District Council. Several St. Vincent de Paul members spoke at the February 29th Centerpoint Energy Board hearing in downtown Evansville. Members spoke about personal client stories including how they would be affected by an increase in energy bills. Our members also discussed the total financial aid, specifically Centerpoint aid, we gave out to the community last year.

Keep Service On. A handout explaining the new “Keep Service On” program was brought to the attention of the District Council. Centerpoint is creating a new program called, “Keep Service On”. This program has certain requirements, the energy bill needs to be \$200 or less to be eligible for help. The client then must pay 10% of the total balance of the bill and then Centerpoint will pay the remaining balance. Example, if the energy bill is \$200, the client must pay \$20 and then Centerpoint will pay \$180. This program is not public knowledge, so Vincentians can mention this program to clients and clients can work with Centerpoint to participate in this program.

Homeless Connect. On Thursday, March 21st, the annual Homeless Connect event will take place at the Old National Events Plaza. Those seeking assistance can attend this event to speak with multiple agencies, in person, for possible assistance. Noah is looking for 3 to 4 Vincentians to volunteer at the Evansville St. Vincent de Paul booth.

Translation Services. Noah is currently working on getting more translation services for our Vincentians to use during home visits and at the Food Pantry. There will be more to come with this topic.

Moving Services. Two Men and a Truck will offer several hours of free moving services to nonprofit organizations. Our conferences can use this service for clients needing moving services. Conferences should contact Noah if they are wanting to use this service. Conferences should give 1-3 days notice to Noah before needing this moving service.

As a reminder, Goodman Creek Appliances will deliver their appliances to our clients for no charge. This is possible through in-store credit from appliance donations from the Thrift Store.

Thrift Store. Mike McKee presented the Thrift Store Voucher and Volunteer Tracking handout to the District Council. In February 2024, there were 411 volunteer hours, 103 people served through vouchers, and 27 people helped through bed vouchers.

The Thrift Store report was presented by Melissa Coleman. Thrift Store sales were down 11% for the month of February. The Walnut Street construction is moving closer to the Thrift Store, although there is still public access to the Thrift Store. Melissa is hopeful that by August, the construction will be past the Thrift Store.

The Thrift Store recently had new shelving installed for more organization throughout the Store. The Thrift Store has received many compliments regarding the new shelves and the organized appearance of the Store.

Food Pantry. The Food Pantry report was presented by Carolyn Harmon. The February 2024 Assistance Summary Report was brought to the attention of the District Council.

The Food Pantry and Coordinator's Office has had several new volunteers join their team.

The Coordinator's Office and Food Pantry will be closed on Good Friday.

Presidential Nominations. Dan Miller is the only District Council President nominee for the next term starting October 1, 2024. The District Council voted upon the re-election of Dan Miller as District Council President. *The District Council unanimously approved the re-election of Dan Miller for District Council President.*

Real Estate Review. The Real Estate Review Committee has received a blueprint for the proposed Thrift Store construction, this blueprint was available during the meeting for District Council review. The Committee is still in the phase of planning and proposing with Lamar Architecture and Design.

Quarterly Gathering. The next quarterly gathering will be held on Sunday, June 2nd by the Sts. Peter & Paul conference. The gathering will have mass at 10am at the Sts. Peter & Paul parish with a meal and a speaker to follow in the parish school cafeteria.

Ozanam Orientation. The next Ozanam Orientation will be held on April 13th from 9am to 3pm at the St. Benedict's Woodward Center.

Dan Miller is attending an Ozanam Orientation formation training in March.

Charity Tracker. A handout explaining conference tracking inside of Charity Tracker was brought to the attention of the District Council. Conference members should report their time and mileage spent going to meetings and other miscellaneous duties under their conference annual report. This information can be tracked in Charity Tracker throughout the year, until it is time to gather all of the information for the conference annual reports. Conferences can also track this information on their own throughout the year. However the conference chooses to track hours, mileage, and miscellaneous duties, the conference should make sure to keep the tracking uniform amongst their conference to decrease confusion.

Getting Ahead. The second Getting Ahead cohort has started. There are 10 people participating in this Getting Ahead cohort. Noah is asking conferences to consider providing a meal for one session of this Getting Ahead cohort. Conferences should consider cooking an easy meal or ordering food for delivery. If a conference would like to participate, please contact Noah.

Microloan. The Executive Director's office has been talking with 2 banks to create a partnership for our anticipated Microloan program. The hope is that participants that complete the Getting Ahead program would be eligible to apply for a microloan through our District Council partnering with 1st Federal Bank. The Executive Director's office would also like to offer microloans for eligible clients throughout our community; those eligible would go through a screening process before applying for a microloan through our District Council and Banterra Bank. The Executive Director's office is still discussing the details of these partnerships with 1st Federal Bank and Banterra Bank.

The Executive Director's office will need to form a Microloan Committee to review eligible clients before they apply for the Microloan program. Vincentians wanting to volunteer for the Microloan Committee should contact Joe or Noah.

Conference President Term. At this time, there are 2 conference presidents that are out of compliance with their presidential office term limit. There will be a discussion about presidential office term limits at the next District Council meeting.

District Council Secretary. The District Council Secretary, Megan, will be stepping down from her position in June 2024. Conferences should consider members who could fill this position. The District Council Secretary position requires attending and recording minutes for all of the monthly District Council meetings, as well as the Executive Council meetings that are held every other month. Vincentians should contact Dan with District Council Secretary nominations.

National Spiritual Advisor Workshop. Dan and Sr. Doris attended the National Spiritual Advisor workshop. In the future, Dan and Sr. Doris hopes to hold a conference spiritual advisor training.

Small Group Discussion. Conferences should review the “traditional conference minimum requirements” handout for the group discussion at the April District Council meeting.

Upcoming Gatherings. The next Ozanam Orientation will be held on Saturday, April 13th from 9am-3pm at the St. Benedict’s Woodward Center.

The next quarterly gathering will be held on Sunday, June 2nd at the Sts. Peter & Paul parish with mass starting at 10am and a meal and speaker to follow.

The St. James Pancake Breakfast will be held on March 24th after the 7am mass. All proceeds will benefit our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Roll Call. Absent this month: All Saints, Holy Redeemer, Holy Rosary, Sts. Francis & Wendel, and St. Matthew.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at 6pm at Sts. Mary & John parish in Rager Hall.