

**SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT de PAUL, EVANSVILLE DISTRICT, MEETING MINUTES FOR FEB. 4, 2025**

**6:02PM: President Dan Miller called the meeting to order in Rager Hall of Sts. Mary & John Parish.**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Committee Members Dan Miller (President), Jeff Kropfl (Vice President), Melanie Seibert (Treasurer), Rosemary Beckman (Secretary), Sr. Doris Clippard (Spiritual Advisor), Joe Cook (Executive Director), Mike McKee (Thrift Store Advisory Chair), Bill Hussmann (Food Pantry Advisory Chair), Noah Werner (Director of Case Management). Guest: Tim Otte.**

**OPENING PRAYER: Sr. Doris led us in reciting the traditional SVdP Prayer.**

**REFLECTION: Jeff read the Gospel of Luke 2:22-32, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. In the Reflection Sr. Doris emphasized Mary, the Mother of God, is with us throughout our lives. In the Vincentian Meditation Sister suggested 'living with fear' could possibly be added as the eighth sorrow of Blessed Mother and that living with fear is likely something many of our neighbors experience. We concluded by praying to Mother Mary for the grace to face fear with calm and to overcome fear.**

**RULE 3.14: "Vincentians should never forget that giving love, talents and time is more important than giving money.**

**Nevertheless, the Society uses money and property to help relieve the suffering of those in need. The Society's funds must be handled with the utmost care, prudence and generosity. Money must not be hoarded. Decisions regarding the use of money and property are to be made after reflection in light of the Gospel and Vincentian principles. Accurate records must be kept of all money received or spent. The Society may not allot funds to other organizations, except occasionally for other branches of the Vincentian Family, save under exceptional circumstances".**

**Dan noted this Vincentian rule reading leads appropriately into the next agenda item -**

**FINANCIAL AUDIT: Tim Otte, CPA, PC**

**Based on his Independent Auditor's Report, Mr. Otte stated the District Council is currently receiving accurate financial information that should help facilitate good decision making by the DC. He had no issues - unmodified opinion - in his review of Statements of Assets, Liabilities, Net Assets-Modified Cash Basis; Statements of Support, Revenue and Expenses-Modified Cash Basis; and Statements of Functional Expenses-Modified Cash Basis.**

**Bill asked Mr. Otte if we have sufficient financial controls in place in comparison with other organizations our size. Mr. Otte replied we currently have enough checks and**

balances in place. Dan asked if we have enough Operating Revenues. Mr. Otte felt we are OK with good investment income. Dan asked if we might approve this draft audit tonight. Tom Bryan made a motion to approve this Draft Audit of Financial Statements September 30, 2024, and 2023 and Mike Rogan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the vote was unanimous in favor. Melanie noted with the approval of this Draft Audit the Final Audit would be issued as approved and signed.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Following no additions, corrections or further discussion Debbie Neufelder made the motion to accept the Dec. 3, 2024, District Council Meeting Minutes as written. Joan Lutz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT: Melanie**

##### **Financial Statements Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2024**

##### **District Council**

Net Loss for the first 3 months of this fiscal year was \$65,700 which is \$32K more than the loss for the first three months last year. The additional loss was caused mainly by:

- Increased Donations (Tons of Toys, General, Walk For Poor) ... \$13,400
- Elimination of treating DC support as income... \$(15,000)
- Increased Wages... \$(5,600)
- Grants to Conferences... (\$5,300)
- Program Expenses... \$2,400
- WFP Expenses... \$3,900
- Web Maintenance... \$3,000
- Decrease in grants received... \$35,000

##### **Food Pantry**

Net income for the first three months of this fiscal year was \$21,000, which is \$37K less than the first three months of last year. The decrease in profit was comprised mainly by:

- Reduction in donations/interest received... \$37,000
- Increase in contract labor... \$12,500 (this was a payment timing issue)
- Elimination of treating DC support as an expense... \$(7,500)
- Reduced cost of food purchased... (\$3,400)
- Reduced spending on maintenance... (\$3,500)
- Increase in other overhead expenses...\$1,900

## **Thrift Store**

**Net income for the first three months of this fiscal year was \$4,700, which is \$45,400 less than the first three months of last year. The decrease in profit was comprised mainly by:**

- **Reduced sale of beds (retail & voucher) ... \$10,200**
- **Decreased other sales...\$2,500**
- **Increased payroll...\$24,000 (includes 1 week more)**
- **Computer expense (Constant Contact-12 month contract) ...\$2,000**
- **Supplies...\$2,900**
- **Building expense (replaced 2 heat exchangers) ... \$4,900**
- **Truck maintenance...\$1,100**
- **Bedding expense...\$3,400**
- **Elimination of treating DC support as an expense... (\$7,500)**

**2023-2024 Financial Audit is completed.**

**1099s Completed, transmitted and mailed.**

**Annual Reports - All conference reports have been reviewed, needed changes made, and have been submitted.**

**Income Tax Return Information - I still need 9/30/24 cash balances from 2 conferences and the \$1,000 donor lists from 4 conferences.**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Joe**

- **Tons of Toys wrap up: 248 families and 637 children participated. Very high 81% conversion rate (ratio of those served to those registered). \$11,910 in donations from 70 donors averaging \$18.70 per child. Only about a dozen boxes of items left over. Very successful event this year.**
- **Grants:**
  - **CDBG (City Development Block Grant) is applied toward Director of Case Management (Noah Werner) salary. We apply every year and this year we are asking for 20K. Presentation to the CAC (City Advisory Committee) was completed in January. We are awaiting next steps of mayor's recommendation and City Council decision.**
  - **We were not chosen to receive the Forward Together Grant which could have provided up to 30K. Joe said neither Salvation Army or Catholic Charities were chosen.**
  - **Indiana Dept of Homeland Security Grant - DHS has approved our Environmental Study Report. Now we are ready to move on to the bidding process for phone and security camera system upgrades, exterior access upgrades and burglary system upgrades.**

- **MMI - Mission Ministry Impact Grant** - we are applying for funds for our Food Pantry (\$80K) to offset a percentage of annual food purchases and Crisis Fund (\$10K) to assist conferences without regular sources of funds. In the past MMI grants have helped the District Council in hiring our staff accountant and our first Executive Director as well as a modernization grant and other grants. Our application has been approved locally and now goes to St. Louis for final review. If approved the funds will be distributed in July 2025.
- **Vision SVdP** - 15 of 19 conferences' responses along with the District Council feedback was submitted to the National SVdP USA in early January.
- **Friends of the Poor Walk** plans are underway. This year the walk will take place on Sat., Sept. 27, the feast day of St. Vincent. We have already received 2 required permits from the city.
- **A Handout from the National Council of the Society of SVdP regarding Guidance on Enforcement Agencies** was reviewed. Guidelines for responding in the case of local or federal agents attempting to enter a Vincentian facility or access information on the people we serve were provided. Dan informed us a Search Warrant is necessary for authorities to enter and search the facilities and/or gain access our records. Dan also requested he or Joe be immediately called in any such event. We should use discretion in data we enter into Charity Tracker.
- **Conference Rosters:** In an effort to keep our records accurate and current, conferences should update their conference rosters on the SVdP National Directory at <https://svdpmembers.com> or give the information to Dan at meetings or by email. For one to be an Active Member there are 4 requirements: be Catholic, part of the Laity, regularly attend meetings and participate in the works of the Society.
- **Mideast Region Disaster Services Feb., 2025 Newsletter** noted - Sullivan County, working with the Council of Evansville, received 11 House In A Box (HIB) units in response to severe storms/tornadoes March 31-April 1, 2023. Dan also noted need for assembling hygiene kits for distribution at Parish Recovery Assistance Centers (P-RACS) or other sites Vincentians are working with disaster survivors. Contact [kpeach@svdpdisaster.org](mailto:kpeach@svdpdisaster.org) for more information.
- **'Getting Ahead' Program and Microloan updates from Noah:** Meals provided for 'Getting Ahead' program participants is much appreciated. Please consider your conference signing up to provide a meal. March 19, Feast of St. Joseph, is the start date for the 4th cohort for the 'Getting Ahead' program. Noah suggests one or more conference members go through the training to learn how the program works. They meet Wednesday evenings for a couple of months to learn about poverty and the resources for best addressing poverty. Noah and a microloan board are working with Banterra Bank to iron out the details for microloans. The loans would be used for emergency expenses such as vehicle repairs and medical expenses and would be in the \$1000 range. A credit report is necessary for loan consideration and the prospect fills out forms and is interviewed by Noah at the Delaware Center. The process would take approximately 2-3 days. Hopefully by

next month the details will be worked out and the program ready to be implemented.

- The Center Point/Salvation Army collaboration for energy bill assistance was discussed. Applicants must apply on line and account must be in applicant's name. If unable to apply on line, the receptionist at Salvation Army can help the prospect apply. If service has already been disconnected the customer is not eligible for help. \$300 paid once in a 12 month period means the bill must be more than \$300. Salvation Army will not report their assistance in Charity Tracker.

#### **THRIFT STORE REPORT: Mike**

- Extra Volunteers made for more volunteer hours for Dec.
- Clothing Items and Number Served were up considerably in Dec.
- Furniture sales were very good for Dec.
- Bedding for Dec down for twin and queen sizes
- It is good to see the store noticeably busier. The parking lot at times has been filled to the point of using overflow parking. The finishing of Walnut St road construction has brought business back.

#### **FOOD PANTRY REPORT: Bill**

- In January the pantry served 2767 individuals (an increase of 131 over Dec.) and 1267 households (increase of 153 over Dec). Bill noted these increased numbers despite being closed during ice/snow storm the week of Jan 5-10.
- Food Drives from All Saints (largest ever), St. James and Good Shepherd have been a big help to the pantry.
- Aug., Sept., and Oct. seem to be low volunteer months and more help is needed these months to stock pantry shelves.
- The hiring process for Food Pantry Manager is under way with goal of having position filled by June 1. Sister Donna's retirement date is June 30.
- Bill has received indications some pantry volunteers will be leaving upon Sister's retirement. He encourages conferences to suggest/seek more volunteers in anticipation of filling a volunteer void.

#### **ON-GOING BUSINESS: Dan**

- Vincentian Day of Reflection March 15 will be held at Seton Residence, 9200 New Harmony Rd in Evansville from 9-2pm. (8:30 am arrival). Registration can be done online or by calling the Food Pantry (812 423-7842). March 5 is registration deadline. Timothy Williams, Senior Director of Formation and Leadership Development for the Society SVdP USA, is the presenter.
- Ozanam Orientation dates - March 8 held at Holy Family Parish Center, Jasper at 8:30 am EST and May 10 held in Woodward Center at St. Benedict Parish at 8:30 am. Dan reminded us this training is mandatory for all new Vincentians and

highly recommended every 3-5 years for all other active Vincentians. Conference Office holders must have attended this training. He asked conference presidents to encourage strong attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS: Dan**

- Should the District Council continue to participate in Ton of Toys Program? Dan noted the WIKY Radio Station sponsors the program, but we handle the funding for our participation. He asks “Is the time involved (2+ months each fall) and the paid staff involved too much”? Joe also mentioned his planned departure as Executive Director in the summer of 2025 might factor into this decision. Dan asked that the conferences discuss this issue so we can make a decision at a later date.

**ROLL CALL of Conferences: Young Adult Conference Not Present**

**NEW MEMBERS: Holy Redeemer - Traci Welp;**

**Resurrection - Becky Schimmel new member and Lawrence and Sandra Humm change to Associate Members**

**St. John Daylight - Bart Kormelink new member**

**St. Philip - Linda Bilderback, Mel and Jackie Wildeman new members**

**ILL OR DECEASED: Resurrection - Millie Hart deceased**

**Closing Prayer: Sr. Doris led us in reciting the SVdP Vision Prayer**

**7:29PM: Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting is March 4, 2025, at 6pm in Sts Mary & John Rager Hall**