

**SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT de PAUL  
EVANSVILLE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES FOR NOV 4, 2025**

**6:00. PM - President Dan Miller called the meeting to order in the Ministry Center (3rd floor) of Sts Mary & John Parish.**

**IN ATTENDANCE - Executive Committee members: President Dan Miller, Vice President Jeff Kropfl, Secretary Rosemary Beckman, Spiritual Advisor Sr Doris Clippard DC, Executive Director Dr Ashley Newell, Food Pantry Advisory Board Chair Bill Hussmann, Food Pantry Manager Mary Reed, Director of Case Management and OEA Noah Werner. ABSENT: Thrift Store Advisory Board Chair Mike McKee and Thrift Store Manager Jennifer Gieselman.**

**OPENING PRAYER - Sr Doris led us in reciting the traditional SVdP meeting prayer.**

**REFLECTION - Sr Doris**

**“A Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed”. A reading from St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians (4:13-14, 18) was read by Bill. Sister Doris read a reflection emphasizing how praying for and to the dead is an important part of the grieving process and serves to deepen our relationship with deceased loved ones. Death from this life is a beginning of new life and our prayers can be a concrete expression of our belief in everlasting life. We then mentioned names of deceased Vincentians, family, friends and neighbors along with reasons we especially remember them. Sister closed with a prayer for them and all the faithful departed that they may rest in the mercy of God.**

**RULE 5.3: “The Society recognizes the right and duty of the diocesan bishop to confirm that none of its activities is contrary to the Catholic faith or moral. The Society, whenever possible, informs the diocesan bishops of its activities annually, as a sign of ecclesial communion.” Read by Dan.**

**MINUTES - After review and with no additions or corrections, Julie Buedel moved to approve the minutes as written and Sister Doris seconded the motion. With no further discussion the October 7, 2025, District Council Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as written.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT - prepared by Staff Accountant Donna Hurm and delivered by Ashley**

**Consolidated Financial Summary Comments 11/4/25**

**District Council**

- **General Donations are about \$30,800 ahead for the YTD versus last year, due in**

part to an increase of about \$6,300 in sponsorships and \$2,000 in donations in the Friends of the Poor Walk over last year's Walk.

- Operating Expenses YTD are about \$10,000 ahead of last year's YTD, with about \$7,600 of that due to increased payroll due to increased hours worked and a 3-week overlap of Executive Directors in June.
- The District Council net loss for the YTD is about \$65,800 more than last year's YTD, which can be attributed to the \$60,000 decrease in grants received for one year only for the payroll grant for the Staff Accountant position.

#### **Food Pantry**

- Cash donations are down about \$28,700 year to date.
- Food Purchases are about 20% more than last year (about \$36,100) due to having to purchase food through the Tri-State Food Bank now that we used to get for a small fee from the Food Pantry Consortium.

#### **Thrift Store**

- August store sales were up about \$35,500 year to date over last year's year to date.
- September payroll was slightly under last year, but year-to-date payroll is about \$45,000 more compared to last year YTD.
- YTD net income is about \$12,100 less than last year, compared to \$34,500 less for August YTD versus last year.

There were no questions/discussion following the report. Dan mentioned he has asked two people to consider being our District Council Treasurer. He asked for our prayers that we may have a DC Treasurer soon.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Ashley**

#### **Grants and Funding**

- Our Evansville Endowment Fund proposal was not selected for this round of funding. Noah and Ashley will meet with their board to clarify upcoming priorities, with the intent to reapply during the next cycle. The goal remains to strategically "stack" local grants along with targeted private corporate funding to address key capital improvements at the Thrift Store, including
  - Bathroom expansion
  - Flooring replacement
  - Installation of a warehouse man door
  - Replacement of the front entrance door with a more secure, energy-efficient model
- The MMI grant has been awarded, and the first round of funds has been successfully disbursed.
- The Foundation Office of Fifth Third Bank through KOCH approved our grant to close the hunger gap. We have received \$10,000 to support pantry operations. This was applied for back in August.

### **Facilities and Security Improvements**

- The fourth and final phase of IDHS-funded improvements at the Food Pantry- focused on the alarm and notification system - will be scheduled soon. Once complete, attention will shift to the Thrift Store for security upgrades and facility enhancements.
- We are also transitioning phone and internet services at the Food Pantry, Thrift Store and Main Office from Astound to Spectrum, which will provide faster speeds at lower cost.

### **Community Engagement and Events**

- Ashley created a list of 'Day of Walk' donations received by participants in the Friend of the Poor Walk held Sept 27 this year. Conferences are listed with the number and amount of checks participants earmarked for their parish conferences that day. It is very impressive and goes to show how important 'word of mouth' and local outreach can be. She encourages everyone to view the list after the meeting.
- The inaugural Gibson County Hunger Bowl raised \$3,349 surpassing its \$3,000 goal. The Knights of Columbus and SVdP plan to continue this partnership with next year's proceeds divided between the SVdP Food Pantry and the St. James/Sts. Peter and Paul conferences.
- Ashley encourages each of those conferences to appoint one representative to serve on the Gibson County Hunger Bowl Committee for next year's planning.
- The Turkey Box distribution will occur on Monday, Nov 10, and Monday, Nov 17. Conferences are invited to volunteer with morning or afternoon shifts. Please contact Mary to participate. All 150 available slots were filled within just one and a half days of opening registration.

### **Technology and Operations**

- The long-awaited migration from DreamHost to Microsoft 365 for Nonprofits is scheduled for this weekend (Friday-Sunday). We anticipate minimal disruption to service, and this transition does not impact CharityTracker. The cost is \$216 per year.
- Conferences already provided with their new SVdP Evansville email passwords are encouraged to change them after migration.
- Each conference has an available [@svdpevansville.org](mailto:@svdpevansville.org) email address; please reach out if your conference would like to begin using it. It is free to maintain these accounts.
- Following last night's DreamHost critical updates, temporary delivery issues affected voucher and appliance requests. That glitch has since been resolved in collaboration with Laila. However, this incident underscores how our organization has outgrown DreamHost's technical capacity, reinforcing the need for the migration. Dan asked if our website is still on DreamHost server and Ashley affirmed it is. Laila felt the recent changes should make DreamHost work more efficiently. We will wait and see if that holds true.

### **Summary**

- The coming weeks mark significant transitions in infrastructure and security that will strengthen our operational efficiency. Our growing partnerships, successful

**fund-raising efforts and strategic improvements continue to position St Vincent de Paul Evansville as a reliable and responsive presence in our community.**

**THRIFT STORE REPORT - Ashley made a few comments about the Thrift Store as neither Mike nor Jennifer could attend the meeting this evening. Ashley noted the Employee Appreciation Dinner held in October was a big success. All but one employee (due to a prior commitment) attended the dinner. The TS sales have steadily increased the last few months. Daily Sales are up over 8K from last year YTD. Recently there has been an increase in voucher requests for beds.**

**FOOD PANTRY REPORT - Bill and Mary**

- **Mary noted in October 1,410 Households/3,374 Individuals were served. The daily number served has increased quite a lot lately due to the recent nonfunding of SNAP benefits.**
- **Bill stated the gravel parking lot behind the Food Pantry is being cleared of inoperable vehicles that have been left there by neighbors. The intent is to have volunteers use this rear parking lot. This would allow for the paved lot to the south of the FP building to be used by pantry visitors and delivery trucks.**
- **Bill discussed some history and issues with the Consortium. They are down considerably in grant funding. They would like to rely on private funding - donations from individuals and corporations - but Bill sees possible problems with that. There is a Consortium meeting this Thursday and Bill will be attending. Whether we continue to be a part of the Consortium is under consideration. It is a difficult decision to make.**

**ON-GOING BUSINESS - Dan**

- **Annual Reports - Conference year-end reports are due by end of November. The Young Adult Conference will also be required to complete a report as they were active a portion of the fiscal year. Dan noted 2 conferences have already submitted their reports.**
- **Safeguarding Policy Kickoff - Dan provided the Registration Instructions for the Virtus Online Training. He went through the instructions step by step. The District Council members will take the lead in completing this online training first. Let Dan know if there are any glitches encountered during the process.**

**NEW BUSINESS - Dan**

- **Next Quarterly Gathering - Resurrection Conference will host the next Quarterly Gathering, however, it will take place in January as opposed to December. More will follow after the conference holds their next meeting.**
- **Financial Review and Operational Audits - Dan is working on getting together an audit team for the District Council. He asks the conferences to start getting their paperwork together and the necessary 2 disinterested persons per conference needed for the financial review and operational audits that will start in early Spring 2026.**

- **Other -**
  - Ashley noted we have received 3 proposals from Financial Planning/Investment brokers. She would like several members of the Executive Committee to meet with each brokerage to discuss their proposals and determine which plan would be best for the District Council to pursue.
  - Julie Buedel asked how we would be proceeding on the Thrift Store flooring in light of not receiving the Evansville Endowment Grant. Dan suggested we reprioritize the job list by installing the man door first as it is part of the security upgrades required, followed by the bathroom upgrades before installing the flooring. Ashley is also looking into other grant funding. Most of the contractors Ashley had contacted were already booked for 2026. Dan said that unavailability would allow us more time for acquiring additional funding. Dan noted we have the money to proceed if necessary.

**ROLL CALL of CONFERENCES, NEW MEMBERS, ILL and DECEASED VINCENTIANS, ANNOUNCEMENTS -**

- Conferences not in attendance - All Saints, Holy Redeemer, Holy Rosary, St Benedict, St Matthew.
- Sue Gries of Holy Rosary is recuperating from knee surgery. Randy Bauer of Resurrection will be having hip replacement surgery soon.

**CLOSING PRAYER -** Sr Doris led us in reciting the SVdP Vision Prayer followed by the 'Hail Mary'.

**Next meeting is December 2, 2025, to be held at Rager Hall of Sts Mary & John Parish.**

**6:55PM - Dan adjourned the meeting.**