

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Minutes

January 14, 2026

Christine (standing in for Gary) opened the meeting at 7pm.

Mary Merenda began with an opening prayer. We remembered loved ones, friends, and members of our community who recently passed away and prayed for family members and friends who are sick and struggling through difficult times.

There was one new member and 24 in all attended the meeting:

Christine Pompa, Cindy Ashworth, Robert Herberger, Joyce Pfirman, Diane Meleshkewich, Johann Lettieri, Thomas Guide, Rich and Sharon Brilla, Mary Carolan, Susan Sinclair, Mary Merenda, Betsy Thompson, Marie Brown, Beth and James Ragnetti, Dave Weaving, Georgette Orlando, Mary Muth, Matt Wanner, Bill and Michele Carey, Jessica McMahan, Eileen Gruszeki.

The Minutes of December 2025 were approved by Joyce Pfirman and Rich Brilla.

HPNAP (Hunger Prevention & Nutrition Assistance Program) Report December 2025

	Dec 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2024
Households	143	140	164
Children	87	92	124
Adults	211	213	277
Elderly	103	89	75
Total People	401	394	476

Christine summarized December 2025 which represents a 3-household increase over the previous month of November, and there was a slight increase in total served driven by seniors. There was a 21-household decline over December 2024.

2025 Food Bank Purchases (December)

Date	Gross Weight (lbs.)	Total Cost	Grants	Our Cost
Dec 10	1013	\$1,032.43	\$637.75	\$394.68

Driving to the food bank were Bill Stickle and Wendy Travis. On hand to put the food away and coordinate ordering were: Tom Guido, Claude Heddle, Bob Kavanaugh, Tom O'Mara, Marie Brown, Joyce Pfirman, Michele & Bill Carey and Gary Crispo.

Treasurer's Report Dec 2025

Jessica McMahan

Pantry Update

Marie Brown shared that the pantry is well-stocked, including with a supply of various fresh fruits.

Food Drives

There were no food drives in December.

- **Next Scheduled – 2/28 – 3/1.** Bag Drive at St. Kateri: Sponsored by K of C LaGrange. Ed Davis is the coordinator.

TEFAP Forms & New HPNAP Log Sheet

Reminder to members: a new HPNAP log sheet was implemented in the pantry. If there are any changes to household demographics, please continue to complete an Initial Visit Recertification & TEFAP Form. This will help us maintain an accurate database and comply with grant requirements.

Christmas Giving Tree

Mary Carolan shared that the program was a success. Thanks to committee members who worked so hard organizing and coordinating the distribution, and to our members who brought those generous gifts to 114 of our clients' children.

Tax-Aide Program

Dave Weaving reminded all to share with clients that Tax-Aide is a tax preparation service offered to low- and moderate-income taxpayers. To make an appointment, call 211 beginning 1/15/26.

Food Safety Class (Virtual)

February 24 @ 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

To sign up, use the registration link: <https://regionalfoodbank.net/agency-portal/>

Thank You to Pantry Members

In 2025 we served on average 116 households and 324 individuals each month. In total, 4,530 instances of assistance were provided to children, adults, and seniors over the course of the year.

As we reflect on 2025, we want to sincerely thank each of you for your dedication, compassion, and faithfulness to the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Through your time, effort, and generosity, you helped ensure that our neighbors who struggle to put food on the table were met with dignity, care, and hope. Your service is a living witness to Christ's call to love and serve one another, and you should feel deeply blessed for all you do.

Closing Prayer

Mary Merenda

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

In Memory of Masses from St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

- **Mass for Rocco Pugliese:** Sunday, 12pm, February 15th at St. Columba
- **Mass for Carol Magnan:** Sunday, 12pm, March 1st at St. Columba,
- **Mass for Bob Pirrelli:** Sunday, 10:30am, March 15th at St. Columba
- **Mass for Elenor Stelma:** Sunday, June 28th at St. Columba