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MEMO

To: County Council
From: Mary Kay Verdery, Grants Administrator
Date: June 24, 2025
Subject: Community Development Block Grant – MD-24-CD-25 St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Thrift Store addition and renovations

In 2023, the County partnered with St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application.

The CDBG funding provided support for a 2,400 square foot addition and for renovations to the thrift store, boutique and advisor area located at 29533 Canvasback Drive, Easton. They received \$625,000 in CDBG funds for construction, renovation and demolition. Several other private donors have provided additional funds for this project. The projected total cost is just over \$1 million dollars.

St. Vincent de Paul offers individuals and families access to the food pantry and thrift shop, as well as access to financial and other client services. Clients served by SVDP are primarily in the extremely low-, low- or moderate-income category.

The increased space and improved building and parking layout allow the **all-volunteer** staff to serve the food pantry clients in a more streamlined manner, to meet with clients in private offices and to improve the storage and display area of the thrift shop and boutique shops.

CDBG guidelines stipulate that a public hearing shall be held prior to grant application and at the conclusion of each grant funded project. The original public hearing was held on May 23, 2023, seeking \$465,000. A subsequent public hearing was held in August 2023 for support to increase the CDBG budget to \$625,000 due to increased building size and parking lot expansion. Today we are hosting a public hearing to provide an update on the current status of the project and grant fund disbursements.