



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

December 2021

St. Nicholas of Myra/Adopt-A-Family program donors

So much more is received

Few saints are as well known throughout history as St. Nicholas. There are many stories that show his selflessness and love of children. One such story is of an impoverished father who had no money to offer as a dowry for his three daughters to get married. Without a dowry, his three daughters would be sold into slavery. Horrified at this thought, the man prayed for help. Hearing the man's plight, St. Nicholas, on three separate occasions, secretly threw a bag of gold down the man's chimney. The bags landed in the shoes of the family members who had placed them near the fireplace to warm. The man was able to offer the dowry his daughters needed in order to marry, saving them from ending up as slaves.



The loss of his parents at a young age formed this love and concern for children and the poor. St. Nicholas' heart went out to those in need

because he knew the suffering and challenges they lived daily.

With our "Adopt-A-Family" program, we invite Lincoln clients we personally know to create a wish list for their family. Members at parishes are invited to collect an angel that lists information on the family such as

"mom, dad, 1 boy, 2 girls." The donor then shops for the family and has the option to personally deliver the gifts to the recipient's home. If they would rather have the family pick up their gifts at our CSS Lincoln location, that is also an option. Alongside the angels there are also decorated gift card sleeves for cash donations and gift cards. All can be placed in the collection baskets at the parishes throughout December. This year, 124 families were divided among the angels on Advent giving trees at Cathedral, North American Martyrs, St.

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**In one year,
we distributed
\$1.94
million
dollars
in overall cash
and in-kind
assistance. This
includes help
with rent, food,
medical bills
and more.**

#HopeintheGoodLife

Hope in the Good Life is the monthly newsletter of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska. To receive our monthly publication, drop us a note in the enclosed envelope. To receive our updates electronically, visit www.cssishope.org/connect.



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#HopeintheGoodLife

So much more is received (continued)

Michael's, St. Peter's, St. John's and St. Joseph's in Lincoln.

Some who have taken an angel are recipients of a gift as well.

Our volunteer coordinator has heard this from some of the donors to the Adopt-A-Family program. "I have a dear friend who said sometimes she judges people who aren't working. But she adopted a family who is a single mom with a couple of children," our volunteer writes. "When she went to deliver the gifts, she understood why this mom isn't working. The single mom gets literally a couple of dollars for child support a month from her ex-husband so he stays in good graces with the court system. When her kids get the sniffles, they are sent home for 10 days to quarantine, which makes it hard for her to work. She also lost 6 weeks of wages in 2020 when businesses that were considered nonessential shut down so money is tight."

Familiarity breeds compassion, not contempt.

"It is incredibly heartwarming to work with these donors as people really want to help out and go above and beyond to make sure others are taken care of. People are truly amazing."

Thank you to all who help us bring Hope in the Good Life through prayers and support.

Refugee Resettlement

Continuing a history of helping the refugee

Since our beginnings in 1932, Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska has a long history of welcoming refugees fleeing persecution. Over the decades we've been blessed to have resettled refugees from Cuba, Vietnam, Iran, the Congo and more. Communities across southern Nebraska have benefited from resettled families who have built businesses, lives, and legacies. Now, we are called to help again.



Our Refugee Resettlement program is busy assisting Afghan refugees. Those who are coming to us had to flee to save their lives and came with literally just the clothes on their backs. Many assisted the United States Armed Forces, causing them to be targeted by the Taliban for working with the Americans. They had no choice to leave immediately without their wives or children. To learn how you can assist us in resettling our new neighbors, visit www.csshope.org/helprefugees. Thank you!