



Catholic Social Services Opens New Hastings Facility

Move from century-old building enables nonprofit to better serve south central Nebraska clients

NEWS RELEASE

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Hastings, NE – After three weeks of closure for relocation, Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska (CSS) has reopened at its new Hastings facility at 124 South Colorado Avenue. CSS Hastings is a nonprofit organization serving people of all backgrounds and faiths across a 14-county area of south central Nebraska.

The agency previously operated from a century-old office building at 333 W. 2nd Avenue, where it had been located for about 15 years. “As we evaluated our facility, we determined the cost of renovating to meet our current needs and future growth was more expensive than buying a new building,” said CSS Regional Director Jon Kiehl. “Our new building and location will enable us to expand services and keep human dignity at the forefront of our vision to inspire hope and love in every encounter.”

Kiehl said the previous three-story building created challenges for serving clients, including limited lighting, a lack of public seating areas, and no handicapped access to upper levels.

The opportunity to purchase the new building came unexpectedly. CSS Executive Director Katie Patrick had just driven past the new structure last summer on her way to a meeting to discuss renovations of the old facility.

“When I arrived at the meeting, a board member mentioned the building I had just seen was up for sale,” Patrick said. “Within three weeks, we realized it would be more efficient and cost-effective to move.” The new facility includes office space, a chapel, food preparation areas, and a welcoming lobby with tables and booths for clients.

CSS is open Monday through Friday, starting at 9am to 11am. A sack lunch program operates from noon to 4 p.m., along with a monthly hot meal. In Hastings, CSS serves nearly 500 sack lunches each week; assists about 2,000 individuals each year through Family Support Services to provide crucial financial assistance; and the St. Gianna Program supports survivors of domestic violence and under-supported pregnancies.

The St. Joseph Gift & Thrift Store will remain at its current location until early next year, when a new building adjacent to the CSS facility is completed. Plans are also underway to purchase a nearby warehouse to expand donation processing and recycling operations. The organization’s former building at 333 W. 2nd Avenue has been sold.

CSS is headquartered in Lincoln with outreach centers in Hastings, Auburn, and Imperial. Learn more at csshope.org.