



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

September 2024

St. Francis of Assisi/St. Francis Gift & Thrift

In Giving that we Receive

“For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.” These words from St. Francis of Assisi offer insight into what it takes to live a truly fulfilled life.

St. Francis was born into a wealthy family and spent his early years in comfort, popularity, teenage rebellion, and frivolous parties. He went to war at 19, seeking the glorious life of a knight. Instead, Francis was defeated in battle, imprisoned, and held for ransom. Alone in captivity and weakened by illness, he turned to prayer, reflecting deeply on the path his life had taken. Upon his release, Francis returned to Assisi where he felt an intense call to live differently. He began receiving visions from God, urging him to “rebuild the Church.” He spent more time with the sick, the poor, and the outcast, discovering the profound freedom in giving himself fully to God and others. He renounced his family’s wealth and embraced a life of poverty and dependence on God.

Francis was assured a future of wealth, power, and security, but chose the path of humility, poverty, and vulnerability. He found that a self-serving life is empty compared to the



joy of serving those in need.

True to its namesake, St. Francis Gift & Thrift follows this model.

CSS began offering services in Auburn and the surrounding areas in 2000. On February 2, 2004, St. Francis Gift & Thrift was opened as a retail business, offering quality items at affordable prices. All profits are funneled back into our services and the community.

The store is more than simply transactional. It is relational. It serves as a connecting point for people who need help and creates daily opportunities for encounters and personal relationships. Whenever someone stops in at the store, they are welcomed with a smile and invited to stay awhile to chat with our staff and volunteers.

(Continued on next page)



Celebrate with Us!

St. Francis Gift & Thrift

20TH Anniversary Open House & Celebration

Food Truck, Face Painting, Cookies, Music, FUN!

Donate a personal care or food item and be entered to win amazing prizes, including an OZARK GETAWAY!

11 AM - 2 PM

Saturday, October 5, 2024

1014 Central Ave, Auburn, NE

In Giving that we Receive (cont.)

From the beginning, St Francis Gift & Thrift has been a community effort, and over the years, everyone has loved rallying behind it. Keeping the store running requires a team of dedicated individuals who believe in the mission and want to love others as Christ did.

We are blessed with a robust team of steadfast volunteers, some of whom have been with us for all 20 years! When you walk into the store, you can feel the joy that emanates from the space. When so many good-hearted individuals come together for the sake of others, happiness is all around!

A fun example of this joy is the way the staff and volunteers “chase after squirrels”, always running



around the store doing tasks and having fun with their work. They love what they do!

We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers and to everyone who has donated and purchased from us over the years. As April Boellstorff, Auburn regional director puts it, “I want to give a huge shoutout to the dreamers and the doers that brought CSS/SFGT into existence all those years ago and to all those still supporting us today. So many have sprinkled their love and efforts into this mission!”

This year, we celebrate all that has been accomplished over the past 20 years and look forward to continuing our mission in Auburn and the southeastern Nebraska community. **We invite you to join us for our 20th Anniversary Celebration and Open House on Saturday, October 5th.**

COATS FOR KIDS

9th Annual Knights of Columbus Event

Saturday, October 12th 2024
9 am- until supplies run out

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
2241 O St. Lincoln

FREE new & gently used coats
will be handed out to all children in need

CHILD MUST BE PRESENT

Sizes boys & girls 4, 6, 7, 8, 10/12, 14/16





CSS PUBLICATIONS SURVEY

We want to hear from you! Please take our quick survey.

We love sharing stories and updates about inspiring HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE and we want to continue doing so in the best possible way.

We truly appreciate your feedback regarding our agency's publication content and frequency. Currently, we publish the following:

- Hope in the Good Life newsletter (monthly, program-focused update)
- The Patron newsletter (quarterly general agency update)
- No Greater Love newsletter (quarterly St. Gianna Program update)

Send in your response by Nov 1 for a chance to win a \$100 CSS SWAG GIFT CARD!

Save time by quickly filling out the form online!



Name

Email

How do you prefer receiving our publications?

- Print Digital Both

How often do you want to hear from us?

- Monthly Bimonthly Quarterly Annually

Which region(s) do you want to hear about?

- Auburn Hastings Imperial Lincoln All

What programs do you want to hear about most often? Check your top THREE choices.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Resettlement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Market & Meal Services | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Gianna Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration Legal Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Department: eCommerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Blessings Daycare | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Department: Gift & Thrift Stores |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Ministry (Apostolate to the Incarcerated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Department: Warehouse |

What sorts of stories do you prefer reading? Check your top THREE choices.

- Faith/Catholic Culture (Lives of the Saints, Teachings of the Church, Traditions, Family Life—tied to a story, experience, or program at CSS)
- Client Stories (Testimonials, Experiences, and Hope-Filled Tidings from our clients)
- Program Updates, CSS Events, CSS Engagement (Volunteer Opportunities, Calls to Action, Donation and Planned Giving)
- CSS Impact (Data, Information, Transparency)
- CSS Team Stories/Updates

Please let us know if you have any other ideas, suggestions, or feedback to continue improving our publications:



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#HopeintheGoodLife

Bountiful HARVEST

**Support Southcentral Nebraska
HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE!
Bid online from anywhere and join the
excitement even from home!**

SILENT AUCTION NOW OPEN!

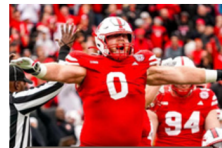
Support this year's CSS Hastings Bountiful Harvest event on September 29th even if you can't attend in person!



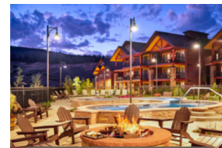
Scan this QR code to join our online auction and check out our GREAT items!

Bidding is open now and will close at the end of the night on the 29th. New items are added regularly so be sure to check back and bid!

Visit csshope.org/bh2024 for more information



Nebraska football tickets!



A Breckenridge Getaway!



2003 Malibu
Just over 27,000 miles!



2013 Chevy Equinox



NU vs Michigan Volleyball tickets!



Blackstone Griddle!

Plus a Pheasant Hunt and overnight for 4 in Imperial, an antique church pew, restaurant certificates, and more!