



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

April 2025



CSS Community Garden

St. Kateri Tekakwitha | CSS Sustainability

### Sustaining Our Mission, Caring for Creation

As the trees blossom and the grass turns a vibrant green, our gaze is drawn outdoors to see the world awoken with new life. Spring brings an appreciation for the beauty of nature, inviting us to pause, take it all in, and be reminded of the gift we have been entrusted to care for.

A saint who had particular love for nature was St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Known as the “Lily of the Mohawks,” St. Kateri was the first Indigenous North American to be canonized. Growing up in the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, she had an impressive knowledge of the forests, streams, and wildlife of her homeland. When Jesuit missionaries arrived, she was drawn to their message and began seeking out Catholicism. To flee opposition from her community, she left her village and

traveled over 200 miles to the Mission of Saint Francis Xavier, a Catholic Native settlement. There, she received her First Holy Communion and further deepened her faith. St. Kateri became devoted to the faith and practiced severe fasting and self-denial, and offered up her sufferings for the conversion of her people.

St. Kateri is now the patron saint of ecology and the environment. **At Catholic Social Services, we live out our core value of sustainability by caring for creation.** God has entrusted His creation to us, calling us to be good stewards. We accomplish this in practical ways of making the most of the generous household donations we receive.

*(Continued on back page)*

### CSS Sustainability Open House!

The community is invited to our Earth Week Event! We'll have lots of fun activities for all ages, including:

- Coloring Contest
- Insect Viewing & Nature Exhibits
- Local Food Trucks
- CSS Community Garden Tour

**Thurs 4/24 | 3-6:30p**

**Newly renovated  
CSS St. Joseph  
Center  
2241 O Street in  
Lincoln**



Join us to share & learn about  
**Care for Creation and  
Catholic Social Teaching!**



PO Box 30425  
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



## #HopeintheGoodLife

### *Sustaining Our Mission, Caring for Creation (cont.)*

Items are either *regifted* directly to those in need, *resold* through our thrift stores and e-Commerce (with proceeds funding CSS programs), or responsibly *recycled* if they cannot be repurposed. Beyond these efforts, we are putting together an agencywide Sustainability Plan, focused on reducing and diverting waste, contributing to food security, building organizational resilience, and caring for creation.

To share more about our efforts, we are inviting you to our **Sustainability Open House**. The event will include local food trucks, a peek at the CSS Community Garden, live insect viewing, nature exhibits, and a coloring contest. With a special focus on youth and families, we are partnering with science teachers in the Lincoln Diocese to engage students during Earth Week. It will be a chance for the community to come together, explore what it means to be good stewards, and share feedback for the sustainability plan.

Sustainability wouldn't be possible without our incredible volunteers. Their time and effort help sort donations, maintain the garden, and much more. Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 20-26th, and we can't wait to celebrate all of our volunteers throughout our agency. As we step into Spring, let's embrace this season as an opportunity to help grow and sustain *Hope in the Good Life*. **St. Kateri Tekatwitha, pray for us!**



Take a listen to the next *Hope in the Good Life* podcast with CSS Director of Sustainability, Jamie Carson and CSS Development Director John Soukup at [csshope.org/podcast](https://csshope.org/podcast) or wherever you listen to your podcasts!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



Giving Days are just around the corner!



April 16 - May 1

[csshope.org/GHD](https://csshope.org/GHD)



April 21 - May 7

—NEBRASKA—  
**CATHOLIC**  
DAY OF HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE GIVING



[csshope.org/NCDG](https://csshope.org/NCDG)

Every gift makes an impact!