



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

July 2025



Rebekah Allick and Levi Baus, Director of the CSS Prison and Reentry Apostolate (PARA)

Prison and Reentry Apostolate | Rebekah Allick

## Serving up a message of love

Rebekah Allick has heard tremendous roars of applause in gyms, arenas, and even stadiums throughout her career as a volleyball player. So many people chant her name, want to wave, and have a chance to say hello, even shaking her hand is a wonderful opportunity for some people. The incarcerated men at the Nebraska State Penitentiary had all those opportunities in June. During a hot, summer, Sunday afternoon, Rebekah came into the Nebraska State Penitentiary to give the men a talk. She wanted to meet them, share her story, and let them know that they aren't forgotten.

Two years ago, Rebekah came into the church. Ever since she was brought into the Church on Easter Vigil at the Newman Center, she's wanted to speak

out about her faith, share her testimony, and spread the news of God's great love for us. These convictions radiated through her from the moment she stepped into the main entrance of the penitentiary. She happily met people, went through security, interacted with the staff, and walked across the prison yard.

"Go Big Red!" was shouted time and again between shouts and applause as Rebekah walked to the Religious Center. Hundreds of men stopped their workouts, their fast-paced walk to get to their next spot, even their cabbage ball tournament. Men came closer to the walkway or as close as they could get behind some of the fences leading to the Religious Center. Once she was in the Religious Center,

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## 5th Annual WALK TO END HUNGER

Supporting the  
CSS Lincoln  
Food Market

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10  
5 PM - 8 PM

Pius X High School

Lincoln parishes have been hosting drives during the past year as a friendly competition to collect the most food.

**Come celebrate  
their success and  
walk laps to raise  
money for CSS!**

Thanks to our event sponsors, each lap walked will raise more funds for our food market.

To learn more  
or give online, visit  
[csshope.org/walk](https://csshope.org/walk)





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## #HopeintheGoodLife

### *Serving up a message of love (cont.)*

the men were kind and gracious to give her space and time to prepare at the podium. But once she was ready, she mingled with them and had some great conversations about family, sports, and Nebraska football.

The only moment of nervousness was from her introduction until a minute or two after she started speaking. From that moment on, Rebekah captivated the men. She received four or five loud rounds of applause during her talk, the longest and loudest came after she reminded them that "You are not something to be fixed, but a person to be loved!" As she shared with them how the Lord has loved her and how she's been moved by his love, many of the men there were moved too. Repeated Amen's, nodding heads, and some tears attested to the power of the Lord working through Rebekah.

Since then, men have spoken about the line above and another moment, which received little to no

applause. The moment convicted the men. "You don't have to wait to be the man you want to be for another day. Start right now! You can be the son, husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin, boyfriend, the man you're called to be." This comment has prompted plenty of conversation at Bible Study, Catechism class, and other Masses. Some men appreciated the direct reminder since they can be so wrapped up in the future. They are attuned to thinking about how they will live, how they will work, how they will act (when they're released), which makes it easy to forget that they can live, work, and act right now. This moment is the exact opportunity God wants for them to practice and live that way so they are ready when they are released.

Rebekah Allick has been adored and congratulated or criticized and called out by opponents, commentators, fans, coaches, and teammates for her efforts on the court. But the men she has met at the Nebraska State Penitentiary will hold her talk in their hearts as a cherished memory, a loving reminder of God's love and their opportunity to strive for God's kingdom.



Listen to the sound of "hope" with our  
**Hope in the Good Life Podcast**  
Hosted by CSS Development Officer John Soukup  
Scan the QR code to listen now, or visit [csshope.org/podcast](http://csshope.org/podcast)

