

Catholic Social Services
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www.csssus.org



In conjunction with the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction, we're selling raffle tickets for \$1,000 or two 2019 Nebraska football season tickets! **Raffle tickets are 1 for \$10.00 or 3 for \$20.00.** Just fill out the information below and send it to us with your check. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. However, a receipt of your purchase with ticket number(s) will be sent to you via US Mail. When an order is placed, we will complete the ticket by filling in the name, address, and phone number, and we will drop the ticket in the barrel at our office. Mail orders must be received in our office by **August 8th.**

The winners will be drawn at the CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction at Hillcrest Country Club on Friday, **August 9, 2019.** The first name drawn will choose between the season tickets or the \$1,000; the second name will win the remaining prize. You need not be a golfer or a participant in our Golf Classic & Auction to win! In fact, you need not be present to win, but it would be a lot more fun if you were! Good luck!

The CSS \$1,000 or 2019 Nebraska Football Season Ticket Raffle Ticket Order Form

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Of Tickets _____ Amount enclosed _____ **(1 ticket for \$10 or 3 tickets for \$20)**

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. However, a receipt of your purchase with receipt number will be sent to you via US Mail. When an order is placed, we will complete the ticket by filling in the name, address, and phone number, and we will drop the ticket in the barrel at our office. At the drawing, the winner will be notified based on the name and information on the ticket. See www.csssus.org for complete set of rules.



Patron

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Social Services Of Southern Nebraska

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me"

-MATTHEW 25:35



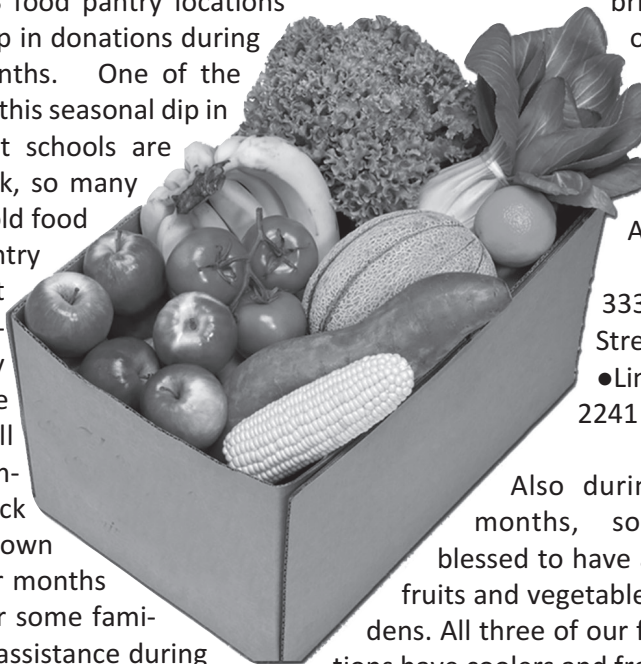
Keeping it "fresh" this summer Donating your garden fruits, vegetables a great way to boost our food pantry shelves

The lazy, hazy and often crazy days of summer are upon us. As sure as the days get longer and the temps get hotter, all three of our CSS food pantry locations experience a drop in donations during the summer months. One of the main reasons for this seasonal dip in donations is that schools are on summer break, so many parishes don't hold food drives. Our pantry shelves are not getting replenished as quickly as usual, yet the demand is still strong. For example, the Backpack Program shuts down over the summer months leaving a void for some families who receive assistance during the school year.

Please consider helping those in need of food pantries this summer by sending in a monetary donation in the enclosed envelope. You can indicate that you would like

to designate your donation to our Food Pantry. If you would like to drop off food items to one of our pantries, you may bring them to one of our locations during regular business hours:

- Auburn- 1014 Central Avenue
- Hastings- 333 West 2nd Street
- Lincoln- 2241 O Street



Also during the summer months, some folks are blessed to have an abundance of fruits and vegetables from their gardens. All three of our food pantry locations have coolers and freezers, so we can accept perishable items as well. This is an excellent way to share your extra produce while providing those we serve with nutritional options. Thank you for helping us meet this need this summer! God bless!

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CSS Is US!

Our aim is to serve and love

Fr. Justin Fulton
Executive Director

Greetings and peace be with all of you. My name is Fr. Justin Fulton and I am blessed to be the new Executive Director of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska. CSS has so many wonderful volunteers and employees. We do the great things of the Church---sharing the love of Jesus Christ to every human person. At CSS, we like to say that our aim is to do the good deeds of Christ and give people a sense of pride in being Catholic. That's our aim---we serve and we love. And we are proud of what we do.

The first month I came here, our sack lunch program team had a homeless person who received a free sack lunch from us. Our volunteers show their love for the poor by preparing these lunches and then giving them out. We spoke with the homeless person for about ten minutes. We really just spoke small-talk. We talked about the weather, where he was from originally, where he was living, his favorite music. At the end of the ten minutes, the fella gave us hugs and started crying. When we asked him what was wrong, he told us that this was the first time he had spoken with other human beings in a month. We were floored. Absolutely floored. We told him to hang in there and that CSS was

honored to help him out.

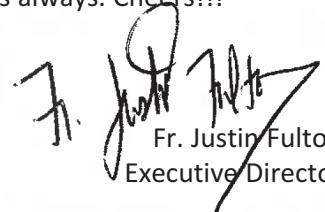
That memory sticks out in all of our minds. To simply recognize one's innate human dignity by talking with them for ten minutes, we helped bring a person some joy. And we all know who joy truly is. Joy to the World is Jesus Christ. We literally brought Jesus Christ to this person. It was so very little but so very large in this man's life. And the impact that he had on us was certainly much more than the impact that we had on him. He is a blessing to us.

These are the type of interactions our employees and volunteers see every day. These are the lives that they impact. And these are the lives that you impact as well, with your prayers, your monetary donations to CSS, and your care for our agency and the people we help. I invite you to join in this most important work. We need each other. The poor need us. And we need the poor. Where there is charity, there is love, and where there is love there is God. Please consider helping us bring God's love to those who have no one else to turn to.



Catholic Social Services wishes to thank our volunteers, our employees, and our benefactors. Together, we all are building up the Kingdom of God by serving His people with the respect and dignity they possess.

May God bless and keep us always. Cheers!!!



Fr. Justin Fulton
Executive Director

Upcoming CSS Events- where we put the "fun" in fundraising!



From a golf classic to classic cars, banquets to bidding, you can support our mission by taking part in these upcoming special events:

CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction
Held in memory of Dr. Bruce Gfeller
Friday, Aug. 9th
Hillcrest Country Club
Lincoln

38th Annual All Makes Auto/Truck Show
Hosted by Capitol City Ford & Mustang Club
Sunday, Sept. 8th
Havelock Ave.
Lincoln

Bountiful Harvest Banquet
A benefit for our work in St. John Vianney Center in Hastings
Sunday, Sept. 15th
City Auditorium
Hastings

St. Francis Celebration
A dinner cruise for the benefit of our St. Francis Center in Auburn
Sunday, Oct. 6th
Spirit of Brownville
Brownville

Visit www.csisus.org or call (402) 430-5626 for more information

We are more alike than we are different

Katie Hile, Regional Director of Social Services

When I first volunteered with Catholic Social Services in October 1999, I was a sophomore in high school. My mom and I helped a newly arrived refugee family from Afghanistan settle into an apartment in Lincoln. The mother recently lost her husband and was trying to rebuild a new life for her and their five young children. Without any English or understanding of American culture or customs, she struggled to learn and integrate. She was herself a social worker in Kabul and lived in a beautiful home until the Taliban arrived at their front door. That afternoon and in the months following, I learned many lessons from her and of her experience as a refugee. But after this encounter what changed my life forever was a desire to help others like her build a new life here in Lincoln. And so my journey began.

After completing degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Seton Hall University, I spent one year volunteering in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the Canossian Daughters of Charity. I served alongside a community of volunteers from Italy, Canada, Czech Republic, and Romania. It was an enriching experience that to this day I am still learning from.

It wasn't however until my final weeks in Congo that a local friend and I started a cooperative. Our nonprofit is called Totonga Bomoi, which means Build Our Future in their local language. Now, eight years later our nonprofit continues to teach young women how to sew and offers an interactive, discussion-based entrepreneurial training that empowers participants to leave behind a life of poverty and vulnerability by learning to implement ethical and effective business skills.

In February, I returned to Congo to deliver our business-training curriculum and while I was there an artisan shared with me the story of how she lost her husband. He was killed at the hands of corrupt politicians who are willing to destroy men and women who dare to speak truth to power against local corruption. Hers is obviously not the only Congolese family left with a gaping hole as a result of this brutality. But she bravely chose to fight

back to empower herself and other women through the education and opportunity provided by the work of Totonga Bomoi.

Esther has been with Totonga Bomoi from the beginning. She taught sewing classes and was soon recruited by Totonga Bomoi in Congo to train women in the village of Watsa. Traveling back and forth, Esther established herself in a new village, among a new community.

Only during this recent trip did she share with me that, after the death of her husband, she had initially distracted herself with work to help the pain go away. But, the shared network of women within Totonga Bomoi moved past the confines of what Totonga Bomoi is on paper and came together, pooling their limited resources to collect \$30 to assist Esther in her time of need.

More than a year passed since Esther needed help from the community, and now she is in a place to give back. On graduation day, after reminding the graduates that God provides the talents that they are now to use, Esther proudly called the names of those women as we congratulated each of them on passing their sewing course with Totonga Bomoi.

Today, when I reflect back to my first encounter with the young mother from Afghanistan, I am reminded that families all over the world at every moment experience loss and the pain that goes along with it. As individuals here in Lincoln we may not have the power to stop the pain but what I challenge you to do is to embrace the stranger, love thy neighbor, and in the end what you may come to discover just like I did almost twenty years ago is how similar we all are. The situations may be different, but we all need the support of one another. A widow in Africa. A refugee family. Or a mother in Lincoln struggling to feed her children. They all need your support and compassion, and I would urge you to open yourself to any one of the many volunteer opportunities we have available here at Catholic Social Services. To learn more contact me (Katie Hile) at Catholic Social Services (402.327.6223) or khile@cssisus.org.

