



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

June 2024



St. Barnabas/Imperial Family Support Services

Encouragement in Times of Difficulty

St. Barnabas was one of the earliest Christian disciples. Born in Cyprus and named Joseph at birth, he became a follower of Christ and sold all his property and possessions, giving the money to the Apostles' mission. The Apostles called him "Barnabas," which means "Son of Encouragement." Barnabas advocated for St. Paul and convinced the Apostles of his conversion from a persecutor of the Church to a minister of Christ.

Barnabas traveled with Paul and St. Mark on missionary journeys throughout Cyprus, Perga, and Antioch. During their time in Perga, Mark became discouraged and deserted the mission. Later, realizing his mistake, Mark wished to resume his missionary work. Paul refused to work with him. Barnabas, however, showing mercy

and forgiveness, parted ways with Paul to preach the Gospel with Mark. Barnabas is known as the patron saint of second chances because he stood up for both Paul and Mark, who went on to author multiple books in the New Testament.

Even great saints such as Paul and Mark needed the help and encouragement of others. Our Family Support Services program strives to be that beacon of hope for those in desperate need of a second chance. Often, the individuals and families that we see have been rejected or cast out by others. Unfortunate events or circumstances have left them in times of extreme hardship. They come to us because they need encouragement, support,

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FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES 2023 IMPACT

60

Individuals and families HELPED

\$6008

Value of assistance PROVIDED

5500

Pounds of clothing RECYCLED

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, YOU DID FOR ME." -MATT 25:40



PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425

#HopeintheGoodLife

Encouragement in Times of Difficulty (cont.)

and for someone to take a chance on them. We offer opportunities and resources to persevere by providing monetary assistance for rent, utilities, and other expenses. Most importantly, we offer words of encouragement that they are not alone and that they have someone willing to help. This hope will carry them through their hardship and out the other side.

Earlier this year, our CSS Imperial site encountered a family facing eviction after the father lost his eyesight and the son, working to support the household, had car trouble. Thankfully, we were able to help with their rent so that they could focus on the bigger problems.

Unfortunately, situations like this are becoming more frequent, as we've seen an increase in requests for help among our neighbors in Southwest Nebraska. To meet this need, we are expanding our team. We are seeking a full time position based in McCook that will join our Imperial Family Support Services mission. If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about this position, please visit csshope.org/careers, call us at 308-882-3065 or email us at bsullivan@csshope.org.

Another way you can help bring hope to Southwest Nebraska is by supporting our Imperial site during the Chase County Challenge, sponsored by the Imperial Community Foundation Fund. During this 24-hour challenge, taking place on June 29th, your donation to our CSS Imperial site will increase our share of the \$50,000 match. For more details on how to give, please see the information on the right.

The Feast of St. Barnabas is celebrated on June 11th. This month, we reflect on his dedication to his mission and his Christ-like charity. St. Barnabas, pray for us!



DOUBLE YOUR CSS IMPERIAL IMPACT THROUGH THE CHASE COUNTY CHALLENGE!

*This fundraiser for area non-profits is made possible by the Imperial Community Foundation, which will match up the first \$50,000 donated to the event! **Here are three ways to give:***

- **Donate online at** csshope.org/donate (under "designated, please" select the "Chase County Challenge" option)
- **In-person** at our fairgrounds booth from 5-7 p during Smokin' on Broadway on 6/29
- **By mail:** St. Isidore Gift & Thrift, P.O. Box 1085, Imperial, NE 69033 (list "Chase County Challenge" in the memo field-mailed in gifts must be received by 5 p on 7/1)

THANKS FOR YOUR HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE SUPPORT!