



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

May 2022

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini/Faheem Rashidi

### Taking care of our brother

“This courageous sister dedicated her life to bringing the love of Christ to those who were far from homeland and family,” Pope Francis said of St. Frances Cabrini commemorating the 100th anniversary of this great saint. “Her witness helps us to take care of the brother from a far-off land, in whom Jesus is present, often suffering, rejected and humiliated.”

Coming to the United States in 1889, Mother Cabrini had a deep love for those who came to this new land. She came at a time when immigrants were arriving in the thousands. She saw first-hand that integration was difficult as many ended up living in crowded tenement housing and forced to work for low wages. As bad as these conditions were, life would have been much harder for the immigrants and refugees she served had they stayed in their home country. Mother Cabrini dedicated herself to helping these people turn their lives around; welcoming them, encouraging them and helping them build the better life they came seeking in America. Faheem Rashidi understands what it’s



like to be a stranger in a strange land.

When Faheem was just 8 years old, his father died. His mother took him and his siblings, left their home in Afghanistan, and walked to a refugee camp in Pakistan where they lived in tents for the next 8 years. In 2000, he and his siblings immigrated to Lincoln.

Faheem remembers that they didn’t speak any English and did not eat the first night because they didn’t know how to open a can. They were truly strangers in a strange land.

Their first home was the basement of St. Patrick’s church in Lincoln.

The family was provided care and food by Catholic Social Services, who connected them with Tim and Katie Pieper to be their sponsors. “You’re 16 and you come to a country, you don’t have credit, you don’t know the language, you don’t know who your friends are, you don’t know how to dress. But thanks to Catholic Social Services, they guided us every step of the way,” Faheem said. At the age of 16, Faheem realized that he had to start from scratch and work hard to

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**Our Refugee Staff is currently providing case management services to 167 refugees in the Lincoln area**  
#HopeintheGoodLife



PO Box 30425  
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



## #HopeintheGoodLife

### *Taking care of our brother (continued)*

follow his dreams. After three years of taking ESL classes, he was admitted to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he excelled. He then went on to complete his pharmacology degree at Creighton, fulfilling his mother's dream that he be the first of his generation to complete college.

Faheem and the Piepers became close friends. One evening, Tim took Faheem to the Old Country Buffet (now the current home of Catholic Social Services). It was then Faheem met Rabia, who was a waitress. They both had arrived in Lincoln a few months before, and attended school together. They've now been married for 12 years and have three daughters.

Faheem is truly living the American

dream. He is the owner of Lincoln Pharmacy, located at 33rd & A Street in Lincoln. Faheem and Rabia are dedicated to helping Afghan refugees adjust to life in Lincoln. In March, they hosted a welcoming event at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Hundreds attended to learn more about what services are available to them to help them get acclimated to their new home. Reflecting on his own experience, Faheem says though language is the biggest challenge facing these refugees, the first thing they need is a welcoming smile and to be considered part of the community.

Thank you Faheem and Rabia, for helping us welcome "strangers in a strange land" and bringing Hope in the Good Life to our new neighbors.

### CSS Lincoln

## Give To Lincoln Day set for May 26th

Give to Lincoln Day is May 26th, but you can support our work now! Donations given through Give to Lincoln Day will also increase our portion of the \$500,000 challenge fund match provided by the Lincoln Community Foundation and their sponsors. Here's how you can help:

- Now through May 26th, go to [csshope.org/gld](http://csshope.org/gld) or just scan this QR code below to donate online at [givetolincoln.com](http://givetolincoln.com)
- Mail/deliver a check (payable to Lincoln Community Foundation with "Catholic Social Services" in the memo field) to: CSS, 2241 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68510. Must be received by 4 PM on 5/26.
- Spread the word by following us on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/CSSHopeintheGoodLife](https://facebook.com/CSSHopeintheGoodLife)) and sharing our posts.



Learn more about Faheem by listening to our latest Hope in the Good Life Podcast episode. Just scan this QR code!



Thanks for bringing Hope in the Good Life to Lincolnites we serve together!