



LINCOLN SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT

January - March 2021

Report by:
Katie Patrick, Interim Executive Director
& CSS Marketing Team

Social Services Staff:

Marilu Cazares
Sr. Karen Eden
Mike Fitzgerald
Sr. Carol Hohmeier
Veronica Hotovy
Kersha Kahrs
Megan Meagher
Drew Miller
Albert Maribaga
Sr. Bernadette Radek
Jeremy Sousek



CSS Volunteer Minh Le
caring for crops at our greenhouse

PROGRAMS



Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska in Lincoln is comprised of five key programs with each program encompassing multiple projects and services. Our five programs, include:

- **Emergency Services:** Cash assistance, employment services, furniture delivery, and walk in services such as clothing, diapers, etc.
- **Food Pantry:** Food Pantry, Catholic School Food Market Program, breakfast and lunch programs, and the Sunday evening food truck
- **Immigration:** Assisting clients with immigration documents, and other forms of identification
- **Refugee Resettlement:** Welcoming new arrivals and secondary migrants, refugee employment services, New American Encounter, and Career Ladder
- **St. Gianna Women's Homes:** Housing for survivors of domestic violence, counseling referrals, and community-based learning opportunities for residents

Special Projects include: Random Works of Mercy, onsite English and Citizenship Classes, holiday programs, et al.

CREATING A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER



Eppley Airport in Omaha, Nebraska

Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska's legal immigration department helps reunite and keep families together. Pictured is a Salvadoran mother waiting in the Omaha airport to greet her 21-year-old daughter. They had been separated due to violence and lack of immigration relief for over 20 years. This past week, mother and daughter were joyfully reunited.

EMERGENCY SERVICES



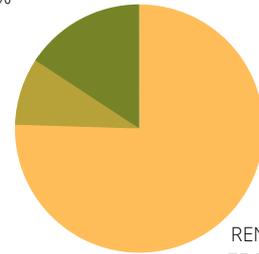
9 households received a donated vehicle
43 households received gas vouchers
53 households received donated furniture
148 households received a gift card to St. Louise Gift & Thrift
826 households received diapers
1,101 individuals received a food pantry
\$42,325.04 was distributed to 56 households for rent, utilities, and other needs.

An older gentleman called on Wed. to ask if we still had Easter baskets available. He was so excited that he would have something special for the grandkids who would be spending Easter with him.

Veronica Hotovy
Client Relations Specialist

MISCELLANEOUS
15.7%

UTILITIES
8.8%



RENT
75.5%



Emergency Services Coordinator, Marilu Cazares, took on a new responsibility at Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska this quarter.

Marilu now processes all client requests for vehicles. She works alongside our Director of Advancement, Michelle Birkel who receives the donated vehicles and with Bill Feltes, our delivery driver who assesses every donated vehicle to ensure that it is in good, working condition before being given to a family in need.

One of the families that received a vehicle this quarter was a mom and her three daughters. Another family that received a vehicle this quarter was an older couple who desperately needed safe, reliable transportation for traveling to Omaha for cancer treatment.

FOOD PANTRY

We had an average of **43 active volunteers** each month, who contributed a total of **1,205 hours of service** this quarter!

1,153 breakfast burritos

catered by Chez SoDo

2,202 sack lunches

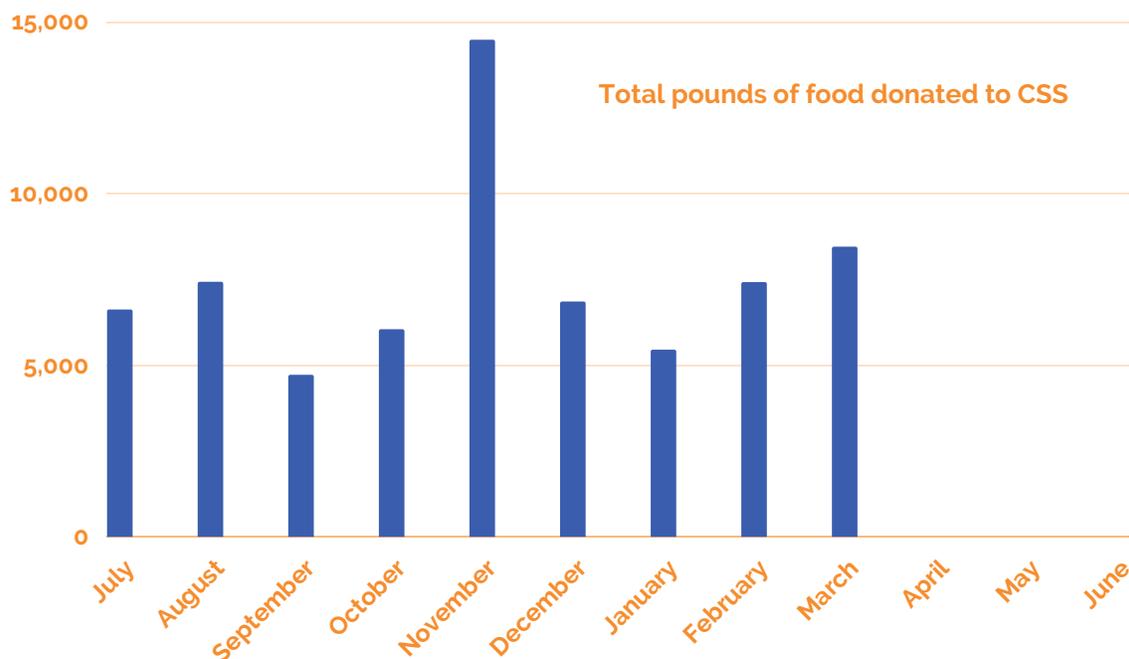
prepared by Knights of Columbus & CSS volunteers

402 food pantries

provided to families at St. Teresa, St. Patrick, and Blessed Sacrament



In March, St. Joseph's School in Lincoln collected and donated more than 800 boxes of cereal during their Lenten Food Drive. The principle contacted Jeremy Sousek, our Volunteer Coordinator to ask what items our food pantry needed most. Our prayers were answered!

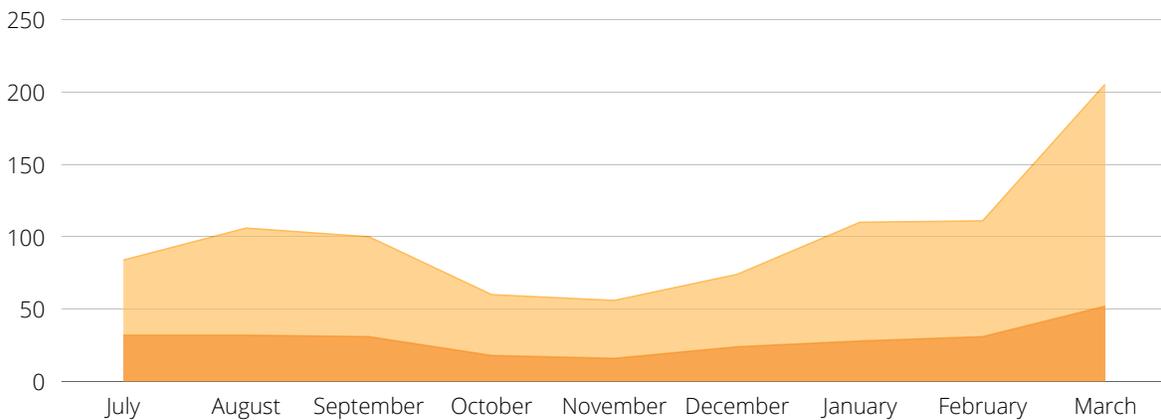


IMMIGRATION



Tyson Foods and CSS are working together thanks to a **\$25,000 grant from Tyson.**

Tyson team members in Waverly-Tecumseh have access to in-person consultations and assistance in completing immigration forms. CSS's DOJ accredited representative, Drew Miller, is connecting (and in some instances reconnecting) due to Tyson's ability to allow employees to consult with us during their shift. This teamwork is building stronger, healthier communities and bringing **#HopeintheGoodLife!**



- Total number of clients, includes screening, intake and if eligible form submission
- Total number of applications submitted to USCIS on behalf of clients

Forms include: Adjustment of Status (Green Card) (Form I-485), Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (green card) (I-90), U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship (Form N-400), Application for Certificate of Citizenship (N-600), Employment Authorization Document (Form I-765), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (Form I-812D), Application for Fee Waiver (I-912)

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Meet Evelina. She's working with CSS's Senior Case Manager Kersha Kahrs (right) through the **Connectors Program** of the **New Americans Task Force** (NATF) CareerLadder program and is on the Accounting Pathway. Evelina has previous schooling in the Ukraine and wants to pursue either her CPA or learn how to prepare taxes.



When asked about her end of program goal, Evelina replied that she would be happy to have a job in the Accounting world. She said that so far, the most challenging part has been learning English. She's working hard, though- she's taking classes through Lincoln Literacy and will start the ESL program at Southeast Community College this spring. Evelina is grateful for the opportunities provided thanks to CareerLadder and is excited to work toward her dreams.

New Americans Task Force is a network of public and private organizations and community members that help refugee and immigrants who relocate to Lincoln. They developed **CareerLadder** to connect skilled immigrants and refugees to career pathways, digital resources, and a professional network while fostering economic opportunity and restoring dignity through work.

In 2020, the program won both a \$175,000 **Google.org Impact Challenge grant** and the \$125,000 People's Choice bonus (thanks to MANY of you who voted for them!). CSS provides crucial mentorship through the Connectors Program, which connects clients with a reliable professional mentor within their industry with whom they will meet at least three times during the three-month mentorship period.

How decisions in Washington affect the refugee families we serve.

- Austrian D Visa processing is still on hold, with pending negotiations between the US and Austrian government. This program allows for those fleeing religious persecution temporary stay in Austria as they travel to their final destination.
- 90-day suspension of the direct access program for US-Affiliated Iraqis after there was some stolen information from the refugee processing center's database.
- Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals blocks Trump's executive order to require prior written consent of states/localities in order to resettle refugees.
- Presidential Determination for FY21 remains at 15,000. Right now, the US has only settled 8% of the 15,000, and we are 30% into the current fiscal year.

During this quarter, our staff continued to visit with residents to review their family action plan and safety plan.

Developed by our Resident Care Manager, the **Family Action Plan** is a proposed strategy or course of action that breaks down large, sometimes overwhelming goals or tasks into smaller, more manageable ones. It gives our residents a step-by-step path to keep them accountable and help them to succeed.

ST. GIANNA WOMEN'S HOMES

Notable Achievements & Highlights

- Four new residents escaped their abusers and moved into St. Gianna's Home this quarter.
- One resident completed her apartment application and will transition out of St. Gianna's and into permanent housing next month!
- One resident received a donated car from CSS. This will help her and her daughters get to school, work, and doctor appointments.
- Several residents attended a group counseling session offered by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center.



All The Small Things

We have a number of volunteers working behind the scenes to help the women and children at St. Gianna's Home in Lincoln feel loved. A few months ago, Laura approached us with a wonderful pro-life idea. Knowing that every birthday should be a grand celebration of life, Laura wanted to help out the children at St. Gianna Women's Homes realize the gift of their unique, individual lives by helping them celebrate their birthdays.

For every resident birthday - moms and kids alike - Laura prepares a cake for them. She communicates with our Residential Care Manager to know the date, age, name, and any special interest such as Marvel, safari animals, etc., so that she can personalize the birthday cake. It's all the small things that help our residents rebuild their lives..