



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

September 2023

Patron Saints of Volunteers/Bill Murphy

Small things with great love

“Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and to give oneself in their service. In order to do so, volunteers, who out of love of Jesus serve the poor and the needy, do not expect any thanks or recompense; rather they renounce all this because they have discovered true love.”
-Pope Francis’ Homily, Mass of Canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

In the month of September, the Church celebrates the feast day of two patron saints of volunteers: St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Vincent de Paul. As Pope Francis stated, volunteers “have discovered true love.” St. Teresa of Calcutta believed “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

At Catholic Social Services, we are blessed to have so many volunteers across southern Nebraska do small things with great love. One of those volunteers is Bill Murphy in Hastings. About five years ago, Bill’s diminishing eyesight forced him to give up his job.

He was able to do chores around the house including landscaping. But once winter set in, he grew tired of pacing around the house and decided to volunteer somewhere. Bill knew a little about CSS in Hastings, mainly because of the Gift & Thrift Store, but not much else.



Bill dropped in to the CSS Hastings office and was introduced to then-Volunteer Coordinator Amy Threewit, who promptly took Bill by the hand and gave him a tour of the facility. Bill asked Amy if given the situation with his vision, did she have a job he could do? She said she had the perfect spot for him: handing out sack lunches.

The CSS Hastings Sack Lunch Program is a collaborative effort with the many groups and organizations that make up Open Table. Bill hadn’t heard of Open Table when he first started to volunteer, but he is now on the board. Bill hands out sack lunches and beverages, when available, every Monday and Thursday from noon until 4:00 PM. He had no idea of the need when he first started handing out lunches. Just the other day, Bill said he

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We have over

80

AVAILABLE VOLUNTEER SHIFTS

For you to do

SMALL THINGS with GREAT LOVE!

CSS offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups at all 4 of our regional sites, with tasks ranging from childcare & cleaning to shopping & sorting. Best of all, you’ll be joining us in bringing **HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE** to our southern Nebraska neighbors. Getting started is easy- take the first step at csshope.org/volunteer.





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#HopeintheGoodLife

Small things with great love (continued)

passed out 186 sack lunches.

Bill has gotten to know many of the folks that stop by for a sack lunch. He was quick to say he is the one that gets the most out of the relationship. Some are elderly, some are homeless. Some just need a little help during a tough time. Bill is unable to drive, so he walks to CSS. Often a car will honk and the driver- someone who have received lunches from Bill- gives him a shoutout. On Sunday, October 8th, CSS will proudly give Bill a shoutout as well, presenting him

with the Love of Christ award at the Bountiful Harvest Banquet. Thank you Bill, for exhibiting what it means to bring the Love of Christ to our neighbors in and around Hastings. You truly are an example of bringing Hope in the Good Life.



Listen to our Hope in the Good Life Podcasts, including our latest podcast featuring a conversation with Bill Murphy, at csshope.org/podcast or just scan the QR code at the right!



Bountiful

HARVEST

SUNDAY 10.8.23

An evening of fellowship celebrating the work of Catholic Social Services Hastings and supporting HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE

Hastings City Auditorium - 400 N. Hastings Ave.
 Social Time at 5 PM | Dinner at 6 PM | Program at 7 PM
 Silent Auction throughout the evening

Register before 9/22 & pay online with a credit card at:

csshope.org/bh23

Please join us for BOUNTIFUL HARVEST 2023! Our event will raise much-needed funds for the neighbors helped through our Hastings CSS programs & services and will feature:

- Social time & entertainment
- A delicious meal
- Our Hastings impact video highlighting our work in the Hastings region
- An innovative and informative sustainability panel conversation
- The Love of Christ Award presented to Bill Murphy
- The conclusion of our 2023 Bountiful Harvest Silent Auction (bidding opens 9/29 at the link shared below)