



PATRON

Hope in the Good Life

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Gracious St. Joseph, protect our family from all evil as you did the Holy Family. Kindly keep us ever united in the love of Christ, ever fervent in imitation of the virtue of our Blessed Lady, your sinless spouse, and always faithful in devotion to you. St. Joseph, patron saint of CSS, pray for us!

A fresh, new look for CSS *Logo, tagline conveys our service and dedication to the entire diocese*

Catholic Social Services has a new, fresh look. We unveiled our new logo and branding at our Bountiful Harvest banquet in Hastings in mid-September, and we are excited to share it with everyone. We wanted to be able to tell the story of CSS in a matter of seconds with our brand and we feel our new brand gives us that opportunity.

We found many people did not know that we served the entirety of southern Nebraska. And we wanted to show this in our brand. We wanted to show that we serve the entire southern third of Nebraska—both urban and rural parts—and we wanted people to know that we are Catholic. And that the Eucharist binds us together and unifies us in our Diocese. Hence, all of this is reflected in our logo. The blue represents the Platte River, which everything south of the Platte is where we serve—the Diocese of Lincoln. The green

represents agriculture, the backbone of our Diocese and state. The paved roads represent urban centers. And the cross and circle represent that we are united in the Eucharist in our Catholic faith.



Our new slogan also has a double intent: “Hope in the Good Life.” Through our work at CSS we bring hope to the people we serve. But we know everything we do materially is derivative of a spiritual reality: that true hope lies in the Life of the true Good—God. Hence, our hope comes from and brings people to God. And we are humbled to be His instruments in our work.

We aim to be a unitive force in our Diocese. We do the good work of Christ and His Church. We seek to partner with all people of our Diocese and we want all of us to be proud to be Catholic. May we join together to celebrate our faith and be living examples of Hope in the Good Life!!!



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10th ANNUAL CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC & AUCTION
9 AUG 2019
HILLCREST C.C. LINCOLN, NE

Fall 2019

It is written in our hearts

Fr. Justin Fulton
Executive Director

Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska is vital to the lives of thousands of people.

It humbles me to type the above line. It is true. There is no other way to state it. If Catholic Social Services did not exist there would be more people homeless, more people hungry, more aborted children, more people suffering from domestic violence, more people suffering from depression, and more darkness. Because we exist, we bring more Light into the darkness. We are building a Culture of Life through our work here. And we want you to join with us in doing Christ's work.

We help people find jobs. We help women and children escape from being beaten and killed. We help children have school supplies and clean clothes. We get housing for the displaced. We furnish homes and give people places to eat and sleep. We help the underemployed have food and drink. We give the homeless meals. And we give all of the people we help something every human heart desires----communion and companionship.

All of this happens every day throughout southern Nebraska. Our outreach centers in Imperial, Hastings, Lincoln and Auburn bring Christ to people and people to Christ.



Volunteer Coordinator Jeremy Sousek and some of the Lincoln Sandwich Program volunteers

Do you feel called to join with us and help out Christ in His poor? If we really read and PRAY about Matthew 25:31-46, all of us should feel called---because it is written on our hearts from our Creator and it is something we will be judged on. How did I help Christ in the poor? Did I meet him there? Did I feed him there? Did I talk with him there? When was the last time I encountered Christ in the poor? Have I ever encountered Christ in the poor? Do I know Christ in the poor? Will I know Christ when I meet Him at my Judgment?

Let us pray over Matthew for a moment....take this. Reflect on it. Pray about it. And let Christ into your heart. And may Christ live through you and your actions.

Matthew 25:42-46 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me. Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me. And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

It costs us \$16,000 per day to offer all of the services we provide to the people of Southern Nebraska. And we need your help to continue this. Please consider helping us with a financial contribution, prayers, or join us and volunteer!!!

On behalf of all of the clients of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska thank you for your spiritual, voluntary, and financial support. And thank you for your faith in action!!!

May God bless us all!

Help us provide Hope in the Good Life

Serving those in need across the 24,000 square miles of southern Nebraska can be a challenge, but even more so this year. People from all over the state, and even across the country, generously donated over \$500,000 to us this past spring in response to the devastating flooding. We are so grateful for your generosity. However, those funds are restricted to flood relief, and we are concerned that this outpouring of generosity will affect general contributions to CSS. Please help us meet our costs of \$16,000 per day to provide services to the people of Southern Nebraska with your financial contributions, prayers and support. God bless you for helping us bring Hope in the Good Life!



Having the courage to say "Yes!"

Katie Hile, Regional Director of Social Services

Meet Saleh. He became a regular at Catholic Social Services in 2017. Being homeless, Saleh came here to receive food, small bottles of shampoo, toothpaste, and blankets. Over time, he came to know our front office staff and would share stories and a few laughs with us each day. Sadly, Saleh's homelessness was not his lowest point. Saleh is Sudanese and escaped the horrors of famine and violence in his homeland several years prior.

Since independence in 1956, the country has spent more time in conflict than in peace. Sudan's First Civil War lasted from 1955 to 1972 and the Second Civil War began in 1983, lasting until 2005, when a tenuous peace accord was struck between the government in the North and the rebels in the South, that would establish independence for South Sudan as of July 9, 2011. On that date, I was living in northeastern Congo, near its border, and I remember the excitement on the radio and in the newspapers; it was all that region could talk about. Finally, South Sudan was going to have its freedom. You see, the culture, the language, and the religion of the North and South are in stark contrast to one another, fueled by the influences of decades of colonialism. Yet, hopes were high for what this new peace accord could bring. The people were tired of conflict and ready to live and work and send their children to school without fear. Saleh was one of these people.

Peace did not last for the two new nations, or for Saleh. Ultimately, he fled Sudan for Egypt where he registered as a refugee. Through numerous background checks and interviews, Saleh said his final goodbye to a country that he loved but could no longer survive in. He ultimately made it to the United States and was given a second chance - a chance that very, very few of the world's 70.8 million internally displaced persons, refugees, ever receive.

In the U.S., Saleh had no family and no community. While he was safe from the wars of Sudan, he was alone. He struggled. He was homesick. One day he turned to alcohol. His daily consumption rose and by the time he walked through our doors at Catholic Social Services, he was living on the streets. His I.D.s were stolen and he was drinking alcohol at life-threatening levels. It was then that he met our long-time Refugee Case Manager, Drew Miller. Drew came to work at Catholic Social Services during his freshman year of college in 2012 and has been here ever since.

Drew's encounter with Saleh began simply, with a hello and good-bye that would eventually lead to long conversations about the pain and loneliness that Saleh was experiencing. Drew knew that Saleh was unable to access local addiction recovery services and employment programs mostly because of his lack of proper identification. Committing his time to Saleh and likewise with Saleh committing to changing his future, the two of them worked to renew Saleh's permanent resident card or green card and then Saleh made the choice to seek treatment.

Today, Saleh is over one year sober. He regularly attends AA meetings and encourages his fellow community members suffering from addiction to also seek

treatment. In a conversation I recently had with a friend, I was told that we can either: 1) hope that someone else chooses to help that person; or 2) choose to help that person. Drew chose to sit with Saleh that day. To listen to his story. And then he chose to be the person to help Saleh, not because it was his job, but because he saw the dignity and the beauty inside of this broken man. And so we pray, May God continue to guide us and present to each of us the opportunity to serve, and may He give us the courage to always say: *yes, Lord I will serve Your children. Amen.*



Refugee Case Manager Drew Miller with Saleh



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#HopeintheGoodLife



(S.A.G.)

Hope in the Good Life

23rd Annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction a record success

On Friday, August 9th, Hillcrest Country Club played host to the 23rd Annual CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction. Held in memory of Dr. Bruce Gfeller, this year’s event was the most successful tourney to date, netting more than \$110,000 for our programs. A total of 60 teams played in the tournament, and approximately 300 people attended the cookout, sponsored by Sandhills Publishing. The silent auction, which was sponsored by Slim Chickens, again featured bidding by text or smartphone, allowing others who could not attend the event the opportunity to bid on items. Jean Witte won the raffle drawing for \$1,000 and Tobin Watson won the Nebraska football season tickets. Thank you to all of our sponsors and congratulations to the winning teams:



Morning Flight

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st: Midwest Tile, Marble & Granite | 2nd: Team Kasl |
| 1st: Dental Designs | 2nd: Lincoln Mattress & Furniture |
| 1st: Nebraska Catholic Conference | 2nd: Team Gonnerman |

Afternoon Flight

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| 1st: Red Door Realty/Manzitto | 2nd: Nebraska Dermatology |
| 1st: Schaefer’s | 2nd: Cathedral of the Risen Christ-Reese |
| 1st: Cheever Construction | 2nd: Fr. Gyhra’s Team |