



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

February 2024



St. Gertrude of Nivelles/The CSS Community Garden

Helping our garden grow hope

Born in Belgium in 626, St. Gertrude of Nivelles was raised in a family that was “held to be holy by those who knew them.” In fact her parents, Pepin and Ida, and her sister, Begga, are Saints. Devoted to her faith from an early age, Gertrude turned down a noble marriage to pursue the religious life, stating the Christ alone would be her bride-groom. Following the death of her husband, Ida built a double monastery at Nivelles. At the age of 20, Gertrude was named abbess of the monastery. She soon gained a reputation for her hospitality and generosity to travelers, as well as for her aid to missionary monks from Ireland. She gave land to one monk so he could build a monastery at Fosse.

By her early thirties, Gertrude’s health began to decline due mostly to her abstaining from food or sleep as an act of penance. She died at the age of just thirty-three, the same age as our Lord.

St. Gertrude is one of the many patron saints of gardeners because good weather on her feast day, March 17, means that it is time to begin spring planting.

Though we can’t plan on what the weather will be like on March 17 of this year (let alone tomorrow!) we can begin planning for the second year of our Catholic Social Services Lincoln Community Garden. The garden is located on our property at 2241 O Street on the

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WHAT
does our CSS
COMMUNITY GARDEN
GROW?



A BOUNTIFUL BLESSING
of fresh & healthy produce
for neighbors shopping our
CSS Lincoln Food Market!

HOW
does our CSS
COMMUNITY GARDEN
GROW?

With your
help and
support!



Make our 2024
growing season
a bumper crop of
HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE!

csshope.org/volunteer





PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



#HopeintheGoodLife

Helping our garden grow hope (continued)

west side of our St. Louise Gift & Thrift Store. We created the CSS Lincoln Community Garden to grow fresh produce for our clients. As one of our Food Market clients told us, “When I come for food, I am always so happy when I can take home fresh produce for my family. It makes a big difference in my life to be able to eat healthy and have a good diet.”

In our first year, we were blessed to have many different organizations and volunteers help us get the community garden up and running. Staff from Clark and Enersen and several members of the Lincoln chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians built our cedar garden beds. The folks from Clark and Enersen also donated and built a storage shed. Much work was done during the growing season by our staff and volunteers including filling the beds with 50/50 compost, maintaining the area around the beds and acquiring plants (and deciding when to plant them). As a result of the efforts of our staff and volunteers, our community garden produced **373 pounds of food** for our Food Market clients!

Planning is underway for this year’s CSS Lincoln Community Garden and we hope to produce even more food than last year. However, we need many volunteers to make it happen. **If you love gardening and would like to help us grow hope for our Food Market clients this season, contact Elli Wyllie at ewyllie@csshope.org to discuss ways to help. Thank you!**

SAVE THESE HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE DATES!

MAY 1	NEBRASKA CATHOLIC DAY OF GIVING
MAY 2	GIVE HASTINGS DAY (ONLINE)
AUG 4	WALK TO END HUNGER (LINCOLN)
AUG 5	CSS MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC (LINCOLN)
SEPT 29	BOUNTIFUL HARVEST BANQUET (HASTINGS)
TBA SOON!	CSS AUBURN 20TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

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