



PATRON

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Lord God almighty, who bestows on us an abundance of heavenly gifts, as well as the rich fruits of the earth; we give thanks to you in your glory for this season's crops and beg you again to bless the harvest which we have received from your bounty, to preserve it and to shield it from harm. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Getting to know our neighbors *CSS connects through community events*

As restrictions lift and events shift from virtual to in-person, our CSS team is excited to once again be busy with outreach at many community events. We're eager to build connections through one-on-one encounters with our neighbors.

Setting up a CSS table at an event lets us collaborate with other nonprofit agencies and meet our neighbors one-on-one to educate them about our programs and services. The fact that we hear "I had NO IDEA CSS offered so many different things!"

from event participants repeatedly tells us education is a never-ending task. Luckily, it's a task our team is excited to undertake!

During the past few months, our staff has actively participated in various cultural festivals, community gatherings, and outreach opportunities of varying sizes. These events have different audiences and different objectives- and sometimes require innovative new com-

munication pieces. For "Streets Alive!", a free community festival sponsored by Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln (HealthyLincoln.org), the CSS team collaborated and developed a recipe calendar with nutrition tips and shared

the calendar (and samples of "peanut butter energy balls") with the thousands who attended the event. Both the calendar and the samples were a hit! We'll continue to share the calendar at our future events and with our CSS Food Market clients as well.



If you're at a community event and see our CSS "Hope in the Good Life" table, we hope you'll stop by to say hello (and grab a bit of "CSS Swag," too!). Our team is always looking for new opportunities to connect and make new friends. If you have an outreach event you'd like us to consider, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to us via email (hello@cssisus.org) or give us a call (402.474.1600).

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Fall 2022

For I was a stranger and you welcomed me



Partners in bringing hope



You could win \$5,000!





Hope in the Good Life

For I was a stranger and you welcomed me

Katie Patrick
Executive Director

Do you remember the last time you went camping or on any overnight trip? Perhaps it was only for one or two days, or maybe it was for a full week, a month, or even longer. Regardless of its length, you know the feeling of exhaustion being on the road, when you're tired, but alert, and if you are traveling with kids, that tiresome yet endearing little phrase: Are we there yet?

In September, the refugee program at Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska in Lincoln welcomed a family of nine from Afghanistan. They were weary from the two days of travel and ready to have a warm meal and fall asleep in their new home. But unfortunately, a warm, culturally appropriate meal and drawn up beds would have to wait a few weeks. Instead, a couple of hotel rooms would need to suffice. With the lack of affordable housing, especially for larger families, securing homes prior to our clients' arrivals has been extremely challenging. Staying in hotel rooms also limits their accessibility to a full kitchen. We do our best to provide for them and make the temporary housing work, but it's not ideal and certainly not the homecoming that we desire for them. Thankfully, we have a solution.

Last month, our Board of Directors approved our request to purchase a beautiful two-story home near downtown Lincoln. We are working diligently with several community partners and friends of the agency to zone it as a duplex with five bedrooms on the main floor and upstairs and a two-bedroom unit downstairs. Just a couple of blocks from Sacred Heart parish, a community and neighborhood that myself and my staff have such a love for, it's near several ethnic grocery stores, close to schools K-12 with English Language Learner (ELL) programs and is situated along the bus route – not to mention, it's just a couple of minutes drive from our offices. Our staff can't wait to fill this home with donated furniture that we have received and decorate it with all the love and care that you would imagine welcoming weary travelers.

With your support we continue to perform the Works of Mercy in response to the call of God. For I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35).

If you are interested in connecting with us and volunteering your time in helping us set up homes for newly arrived refugee families, please visit us at www.csshope.org and sign up to volunteer. We'd love to have you!!

P.S. We've also inherited a piano at the new house and would love to have a teacher on call giving piano lessons to the refugee kids who move in. Trust me, there are volunteer opportunities for all of you!!

Partners in bringing hope

Tonya Olsen

Imperial Emergency Services Coordinator

Bringing Hope in the Good Life couldn't be done without the support of our donors, volunteers and community partners. In fact our Catholic Social Services Outreach Center in Imperial often collaborates with several community partners across the region to help our neighbors in need.

Recently we had the privilege of working with St. Patrick Church in Imperial and Educational Service Unit 15 in Trenton to help a family of five in desperate need of food and financial support. Dad is injured and unable to work and Mom is battling cancer. It doesn't take much for a family to fall behind in bills, especially these days when we're all facing inflation and the rising cost of goods and services, and when you add illness or any other setback at work or a transportation issue it doesn't take much at all. And once you do fall behind, it's hard to catch up. Unfortunately, this particular family's circumstance is not unlike many of the other families we help each and every day.

Together with our community partners, we were blessed to deliver 13 boxes of food and a check to help cover rent and several other utility bills. Mom, Dad and their three children were incredibly grateful for the support!

This past summer, I was contacted by the Rape &

Domestic Violence Agency (RDVA) in North Platte. They were asking if we could help with a woman who had fled Ohio after years of domestic violence. She came to Nebraska to live with family, but they were taking advantage of her and it had become an unsafe environment. RDVA helped her secure an apartment and she was in need of a bed, a couch, and some end

tables. "Brenda" had experienced a traumatic

brain injury as a result of repeated physical abuse and needed a nice firm couch so she could get up and down easily.

Thanks to our generous donors we were able to provide Brenda a gently used couch (which turned out to be her favorite color green) that she thought was beautiful and just the right

firmness, as well as two end tables, and a

brand new bed. To brighten her day I also

purchased a new welcome sign for Brenda to hang on her front door. She couldn't wait to hang it on her door and thanked me numerous times after a 30+ minute conversation in which I let her share her story, sorrows, and how they had turned to joy. As Brenda said, she was "safe and secure in my own place" she was relishing in the level of independence she had never felt before. On that Monday in June, we provided Brenda with some physical supplies, but moreover we provided her a great deal of Hope for her future as evidenced by the big smile on her face. Thank you to our community partners for bringing Hope in the Good Life!



IMPACT SNAPSHOT: HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE IN ACTION

CSS IMPERIAL

EMERGENCY SERVICES (ES) PROGRAM

CSS Imperial Outreach covers a 10-county region in the Southwest corner of Nebraska and helps with:

CHILD CARE | DAILY LIVING BASICS | FOOD
HEALTH CARE | SHELTER | UTILITIES

CSS IMPERIAL 7/1/21 TO 6/30/22 ES IMPACT

90
Individuals
HELPED

12
Communities
SERVED

\$6830
Assistance
GIVEN

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, YOU DID FOR ME." -MATT 25:40

Bringing Hope in the Good Life

CSS would love to be your neighbor

John Soukup

Development Officer

Loving our neighbor goes beyond what you may think—to love your neighbor includes being a good steward of the blessings God has bestowed upon you. This looks different for each person but can include making gifts of assets, time, or other resources you may possess.

Cash donations are a simple and tax efficient way to give charitably to a cause that means a lot to you.

Establishing a Donor Advised Fund is a quick and easy way to support Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska (CSS). That's what Brad and Donna Havlat of Crete, Nebraska did. "So when we want to make a donation to Catholic Social Services, we just ask the Catholic Foundation to send CSS a check for the amount we wish to donate from this fund," said Donna.

"While we could have set up the Donor Advised Fund through other financial professionals, we chose the Catholic Foundation to take care of this part of our giving."

Is your wealth tied up in assets such as land, stocks, livestock, or grain? CSS can help you transform these assets (via the Catholic Foundation) into charitable giving, endowments, donor advised funds, or charitable trusts while you're living or planning for your estate.

The Havlat's deposit money into their Donor Advised Fund from the sale of grain grown on their farm. "When a load of grain is hauled to the local elevator to sell, the money from the sale of that grain is transferred into our Donor Advised Fund, completing the gift," Donna said.

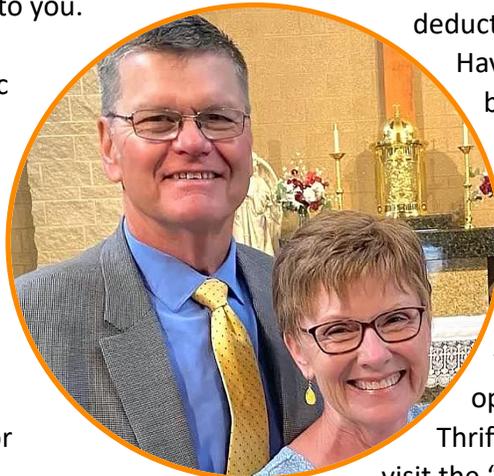
"We don't collect a check for a grain sale, and therefore we avoid income tax. There is no income tax deduction because there is no income." The

Havlat's are also able to deduct the business expenses associated with raising the donated crop and avoid paying self-employment tax.

If you can't give through cash or assets right now, volunteering your time and talent is another great way to benefit CSS. There are volunteer opportunities in our Food Markets,

Thrift Stores, and other areas of CSS. Just visit the "Volunteer" section of our website at csshope.org.

God calls us to love our neighbor by giving generously through our time, talent, and treasure. Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska is here to help you find ways to give just by giving us a call. For help finding what giving option is right for you, contact me at 402-327-6235 or jsoukup@csssis.org.



26TH CSS MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC & AUCTION A SUCCESS



Held in memory of long time CSS employee Sandie Gonnerman, this year's CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction was one of our most successful events. The tourney took place on August 6th at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln and netted over \$115,000.00 for our programs. Here are the results of the tournament:

Morning First Flight

54-Red Door Realty
57-Tracy's Collision Center

Afternoon First Flight

52-Carpet Land
53-Plum Creek Wagyu Beef

Morning Second Flight

61-Ameritas Financial Center
Ben Garrett/Ben Santo
62-HBE CPAs/Consultants
Wealth Management

Afternoon Second Flight

64-Schaefer's
64-Seward Turkey Enterprises

Morning Third Flight

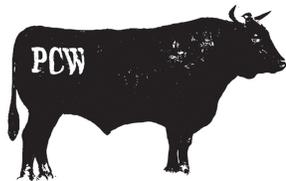
69-Lincoln Mattress &
Furniture
70-Kidwell

Afternoon Third Flight

69-State Farm/Steve Lang
Insurance Agency
69-St. Joseph, Auburn

\$5,000 GIVEAWAY!

Sponsored by



**PLUM CREEK
• WAGYU •**

www.plumcreekwagyubeef.com

Talk about a “Cash Cow”!

Who couldn't use an extra five grand? Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska is giving away \$5,000 courtesy of Plum Creek Wagyu Beef! Raffle tickets are **1 for \$20.00 or 3 for \$50.00**. Fill out the form below and send it to us with your check. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the internet, through the mail or by phone. You will be sent a receipt for your order. Mail in orders must be received by 12/17/2022. Tickets can also be purchased at CSS Gift & Thrift Stores in Lincoln and Hastings. The winner will be drawn on Sunday, December 18, 2022. See csshope.org/raffle for a complete set of raffle rules.

\$5,000 GIVEAWAY RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Of Tickets _____ Amount enclosed _____ (1 ticket for \$20 or 3 tickets for \$50)

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. Mail orders must be **received by Saturday, December 17, 2022** in order to be included in the drawing. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. However, a receipt of your purchase with receipt number will be sent to you via US Mail. When an order is placed, we will complete the ticket by filling in the name, address, and phone number, and we will drop the ticket in the barrel at our office. At the drawing, the winner will be notified based on the name and information on the ticket. See our website at csshope.org/raffle for complete set of rules.



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#HopeintheGoodLife



(S.A.G.)

The Patron

Fall 2022

Bringing Hope in the Good Life

Walk to End Hunger a big success

Thank you to Mike Hosek, co-sponsors BetterLife Lodge 426 and Knights of Columbus Council #13576 (from St Patrick Catholic Church in Lincoln), and the many volunteers who helped with this year's Walk to End Hunger event, held on Sunday, August 7th at Pius X High School in Lincoln. A friendly competition among the Knights of Columbus resulted in a grand total of \$7,513.91 raised, and 12,072 pounds of food collected. Thanks for bringing hope to those we serve!



Mike Hosek presents a check to CSS Executive Director Katie Patrick (center) and CSS Food Market Coordinator Doris Schueth

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES / ST. ISIDORE GIFT & THRIFT'S

TRIVIA NIGHT

Tease Your Brain, Have Fun & Celebrate The Work of Catholic Social Services in Southwest Nebraska!

Save the Date!
Friday November 11

Nutrien Ag Building
Chase County Fairgrounds
560 Park St.
Imperial

Keep watching our website for details!
www.csshope.org