



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

June 2022



Christ in the City missionaries with Bishop Conley at the Lincoln CSS Food Market

St. John Paul II/Christ in the City

## The dignity of each person

In an interview from a few years ago with "Scarp de' tenis", an Italian magazine run by homeless people, Pope Francis recounted a famous story told in the Vatican about Pope John Paul II and a mysterious homeless man:

*There is a famous story in the Vatican about a homeless person, of Polish origin, who usually stayed in Piazza Risorgimento in Rome. He didn't speak to anyone, not even the Caritas volunteers who brought him a hot meal in the evening. Only after a long time did they manage to have him tell his story: "I am a priest. I know your pope well; we studied together in seminary," he said. Word arrived to St. John Paul II, who heard the name, confirmed he was in seminary with him, and wanted*

*to meet him. They embraced after 40 years, and at the end of the audience the Pope asked the priest, who had been his companion in seminary, to hear his confession. "Now it is your turn," Pope John Paul II said. And his companion from seminary went to confession with the Pope. Thanks to the gesture of one volunteer, a hot meal, a few words of comfort, and a look of kindness, this person recovered and resumed a normal life that led him to become a hospital chaplain. The pope helped him. Certainly this is a miracle, but it is also an example to say that homeless people have a great dignity.*

The dignity of the person was a theme promoted by Pope John Paul II throughout his pontificate.

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In the first quarter of this year, we provided **\$68,341.31** of overall cash and in-kind assistance to our neighbors across southern Nebraska  
#HopeintheGoodLife



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### *The dignity of each person (continued)*

Inspired by Pope John Paul II's call to the young to be apostles of the New Evangelization during his 1993 visit to World Youth Day in Denver, Dr. Jonathan Reyes created Christ in the City. Dr. Reyes' vision was to create a culture of encounter, where each person is seen, known, and loved. Christ in the City has grown to over 30 young missionaries who encounter those experiencing homelessness in Denver.

In the summer of 2019, Christ in the City began sending missionary teams to other cities across the country. The goal is to lead a 3-week summer program to train others to encounter the homeless in their communities. Recently, a Christ in the City team worked with the staff of our Lincoln Catholic Social Services.

In late May, Chas Canfield, Sophia Van Horn, and other Christ in the City mis-

sionaries walked the streets of downtown Lincoln encountering new friends. Though Lincoln may not have the homeless population of other cities, Chas says that it's not always about the numbers. "It's really more about who is right in front of you at the moment."

Christ in the City was invited by CSS to not only tap into their expertise in working with the homeless, but to help CSS staff be more present to all of their clients. When things get hectic and staff is trying to meet the needs of so many clients, it's important to see the dignity of the person who is in front of us at the moment. As Chas stated, "It's easy to forget the beauty of what the CSS staff does each day." Thank you for that reminder, Chas. Learn more about the work of Christ in the City at [christinthecity.org](http://christinthecity.org).

### CSS Careers

## Be a part of a team that brings hope

"It's a privilege to manage the finances of an organization in which 72% of your



operating revenue is an outright gift from donors, who receive nothing back but the virtue of helping others."-William (Bill)

Meduna, CPA, CBC (Chief Bean Counter) CSS Team Member.

If you are interested in a career that helps bring Hope in the Good Life, we have the following openings:

- Director of Finance- Lincoln
- Human Resource/Accounting Specialist- Lincoln
- Bilingual Emergency Services Coordinator/Case Worker- Hastings
- Thrift Store Associate/Merchandiser/Cashier- Lincoln

To learn more or to apply for these positions, visit [cssshope.org/careers](http://cssshope.org/careers).



Listen to our Hope in the Good Life Podcast featuring Christ in the City and their visit to Lincoln at [cssshope.org/podcast](http://cssshope.org/podcast) or just scan the QR code at the right!

