



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

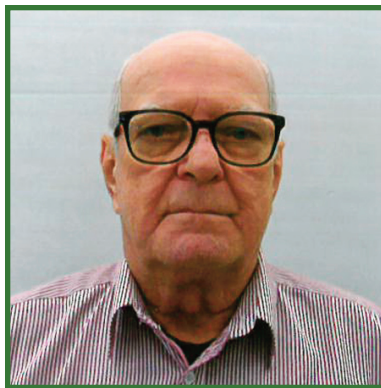
Hope in the Good Life

January 2021

St. Marianne Cope/Mark Potter

Welcoming newcomers with dignity and compassion

St. Marianne Cope, whose feast we celebrate on January 23rd, is revered for her compassion for the outcast. A Catholic immigrant from Germany who arrived in New York in 1840 as a baby, St. Marianne went on to live a life of perseverance, prayer, and service for those striving for a better life. St. Marianne joined the Franciscan order in Syracuse in 1862 while witnessing the unspeakable horrors of our nation at war with itself, the racial divisions to long dwell thereafter, and the harsh living conditions and growing prejudices towards the thousands of immigrants arriving at our eastern coastline. To this, St. Marianne responded with extraordinary compassion and a pragmatic commitment to serving the most vulnerable. Deeply concerned by the lack of basic health-care for newcomers, and upon her order's founding of two Catholic hospitals in New York, St. Marianne became a pioneer in insisting upon equal medical treatment for all people, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. St. Mar-



Mark Potter

ianne's impact would extend far and wide, and was eventually called upon by the governor of Hawaii to care for the rising number of those suffering from leprosy. She would devote the last 30 years of her life in Hawaii treating lepers, touching the lives of those deemed untouchable, and through her witness, would become revered as a patron saint of outcasts and those suffering from leprosy and HIV/AIDS. In an era marked by division and marginalization, St. Marianne chose prayer and service.

Richard "Mark" Potter's own compassion and commitment to supporting newcomers resonates strongly with St. Marianne's calling. Upon his retirement from a life-long career in finance, Potter briefly joined a Catholic seminary in Honolulu, Hawaii to deepen his study of theology and to serve some of Honolulu's most vulnerable populations. As though walking in St. Marianne's footsteps, Mark served in

(Continued on back page)



**Last year,
we provided
\$1,800,000
in cash and
in-kind
assistance
to help with
needs such as
rent, providing
shelter, food,
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Welcoming newcomers with dignity and compassion (continued)

hospitals with courage and compassion in the face of events both unnerving and miraculous, as he described, such as when he helped to administer last rites to an inmate dying of AIDS. Upon returning to Nebraska, Potter continued serving others in need. Through prayer, Mark found a particular calling to support newcomers -- whose status as immigrants and refugees, he realized, caused numerous obstacles in achieving a dignified quality of life. Like St. Marianne, Mark responded to the needs of the most vulnerable through prayer and service. While he has directed his donations to provide food for newcomers, Mark recounts: "The greatest gift I've been able to give to the refugees is prayer." In a time wrought by social isolation and challenges facing our world and our community, Mark's words resonate deeply with us: "A personal touch with heaven is available through the generosity of our hearts."

We are honored and humbled to be administrators of your generosity, Mark Potter, and we sincerely thank you for your prayer, compassion, and service!


Megan Meagher
Refugee Resettlement Director

A yellow poster with a faint circular seal in the background. The text is in blue and white. At the bottom is the Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska logo.

**CELEBRATION OF CARING
2021**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021
5:30 PM**

In light of continued social distancing efforts, we will not gather in person for a banquet this year. However you are invited to gather and celebrate with us virtually and support bringing hope in the good life at csshope.org/Celebration2021

 **CATHOLIC
SOCIAL SERVICES**
OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Volunteer, donate or connect with us! www.csshope.org