



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

March 2024



Good Stewards/CSS Sustainability Panel

Being good stewards

In February of 1997, while addressing his brother priests, Pope John Paul II touched on the subject of being good stewards: “This word ‘steward’ cannot be replaced by any other. It is deeply rooted in the Gospel: let us think of the parable of the faithful and unfaithful stewards (cf. Lk 12:41-48). The steward is not the owner, he is the person to whom the owner has entrusted his property, so that he can manage it with dedication and responsibility.” Whether monetary gifts or donated items, we take the responsibility of using the gifts that God and our donors have entrusted to us seriously.

Recently we gathered for our annual Celebration of Hope banquet in Lincoln. It was an amazing evening of food, fellowship, and a conversation on sustainabil-

ity, which is one of our core values at CSS. We define sustainability as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” In 1998, we opened the St. Joseph Gift & Thrift Store in Hastings, accepting gently-used items to give to clients in need or to sell. In the years that followed, we opened thrift stores in Lincoln, Auburn and Imperial. These stores not only help CSS generate revenue for our programs, but they invite us to be good stewards of the donations that we receive.

Recently, recognizing the success of our thrift stores, we started selling items online. Mario Racicot, CSS director of online sales, shared with our guests the photo of a McCoy Jack-O-Lantern that

(Continued on back page)

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
 JAN-DEC 2023
 RECYCLING IMPACT

185 TONS
 Recycled

\$75k
 REVENUE
 Generated

Funding and
 Sustaining
**HOPE IN THE
 GOOD LIFE!**



PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



#HopeintheGoodLife

Being good stewards (continued)

we sold on eBay for almost \$300—a price far greater than what we would have been able to sell at one of our thrift stores.

Selling name brand and collector items online has enabled us to generate significantly more revenue for our programs. If you have any collector items that you would like to donate to CSS, please contact Mario directly at mracicot@csshope.org.

We also have a need for extremely worn textiles, purses, belts and shoes. John Haag, CSS Lincoln warehouse manager, talked about our recycling program. Did you know that nearly 15% of the local landfill is clothing that could have been recycled? At CSS, we sort all donations by setting aside clothing that is not well suited for our thrift stores or ecommerce. We then bale that clothing and sell it to others who give new life to those

items, such as insulation, industrial rags, or sent to markets abroad.

To facilitate the collection of these items, we are expanding our donation collection program. Currently, nearly a dozen local Catholic churches host CSS trailers onsite to collect these items. If you are interested in learning more about this project and setting up a trailer or bin at your church or school, please connect with John at jhaag@csshope.org.



In the end, sustainability is as simple as giving new life to items you no longer need. By prioritizing the responsible discernment of our God-given resources, your donated items help us meet the needs of those we encounter daily.

To watch the video of our sustainability panel discussion, visit csshope.org/watch

Support CSS by shopping our online stores:

ebay
Facebook Marketplace
POSHMARK

And our four neighborhood CSS GIFT & THRIFT STORES!

- LINCOLN: ST. LOUISE GIFT & THRIFT
- HASTINGS: ST. JOSEPH GIFT & THRIFT
- AUBURN: ST. FRANCIS GIFT & THRIFT
- IMPERIAL: ST. ISIDORE GIFT & THRIFT

All of our stores have a vital role in the "resell" portion of the CSS Sustainability plan. Your purchases support CSS programs & services, helping our southern Nebraska neighbors who need a hand-up. Scan the QR code to learn more, access our online store links, and begin shopping. Thank you for your item donations and CSS store purchases!

REGIFT | RESELL | RECYCLE
SUSTAIN HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE

linktr.ee/cssnebraska