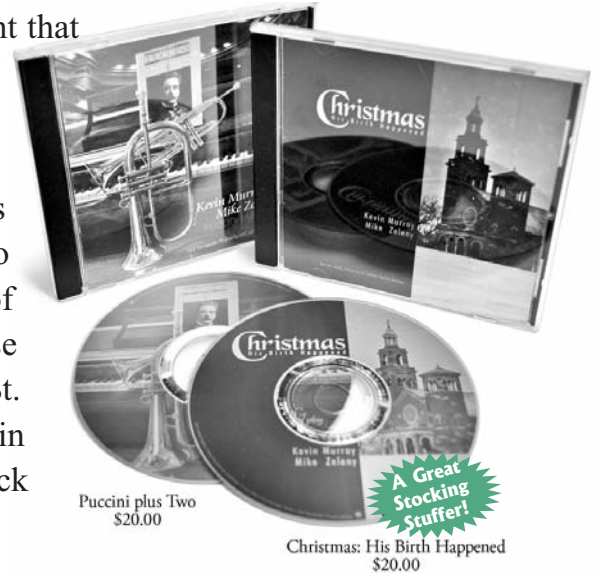


Music from and for the heart

Two local musicians produce CDs to benefit CSS

For years, local musicians Kevin Murray and Mike Zeleny have used their God-given talents to help support the work of Catholic Social Services. About a decade ago Kevin, a trumpet player, began "Trumpetfest," a concert for the benefit of CSS and an event that Mike, a pianist, has often performed at. Now the duo have produced two compact discs, with the proceeds designated to support the work of CSS. The CDs were recorded at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lincoln and the production was paid for by donations; every penny raised will go to CSS to help the poor. Please consider making your donation of \$20.00 per CD and help Catholic Social Services help those who can't help themselves. Both CDs are available at St. Louise Gift & Thrift, 2241 O Street, Lincoln. Or call Kevin Murray at (402) 483-1087 or (402) 540-3130 or send a check to Kevin at 2401 South 70th, Lincoln, NE 68506.



(S.A.G)



Visit our website at:
www.csssus.org



Catholic Social Services
2241 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510



Patron

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Social Services Of Southern Nebraska

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

-Matthew 2:7-11

A Christmas homecoming

When I think about Christmas, a lot of memories come flooding back. The first Christmas with my wife, the year my brothers and I got a cocker spaniel, or the year I got my first 10-speed bike. Most of the memories are about family; sitting around the hearth enjoying each other's company. In the interest of full disclosure the dog was given to my brother and I am pretty sure we never had a hearth, but there was always a lot of fun and laughter.

That is one of the many blessings of Christmas, families coming together in love and laughter. For one man this Christmas, he is going to have an opportunity to share laughter with a sister he has not spent time with in nearly 20 years. Tim has been living on the streets in Lincoln and Omaha off and on for the past 20 years. He has been trapped in the abyss of alcoholism and depression, totally isolated from family and friends.

We started talking to Tim when we were handing out water under the bridge along 23rd and O Street on hot afternoons this past summer. Some days he was sober, other days he was not. We learned about his past; where he was

raised, what kind of work he did before he came to Nebraska and where his family is now. It turns out Tim has a sister in southern Colorado. We spoke on the phone a few times and she was interested in a possible reunion. She located employment for him and was able to arrange for a drug and alcohol counselor to see Tim if he were to make the trip. Tim was



excited to see his family again and wanted to get out from under his reliance on the bottle. He eagerly accepted the idea of getting alcohol treatment and going back to work. His sister promised he could stay with her through the winter until he was able to strike out on his own, both financially and psychologically. We paid for a bus ticket so Tim could spend this Christmas with his sister.

Hopefully this Christmas will be a very merry one for Tim and his sister. I pray Tim will remain true to his pledge to work on his addictions and that he will find fulfillment in his new job and being with family. The road will be hard, but Christmas is the time of miracles; it is also the time for family.

-Curt Krueger
Director of Social Services

Inside:

His love and mercy is for everyone

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CSS Christmas Programs serve thousands

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Advent/Christmas 2016

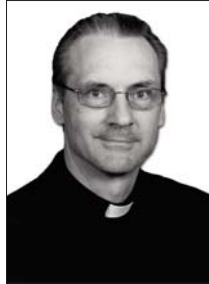
Offering a word of hope

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Woman, why are you crying?

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Executive Director
Catholic Social Services



Recently, a young single mother with children was found crying in one of our four chapels across the diocese. It prompted the question of why she was crying. She had good news along with bad. Tragically, she had lost her job and was unable to pay her rent. Since she was the sole bread winner in the household, and living paycheck to paycheck, she was unable to pay the current month's rent. What made matters worse; she was facing a three days eviction notice. She was in desperate straits. Not being Catholic, she heard about us and after entering our doors found solace and peace kneeling and crying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. It was there she found the peace that only God can give to a broken heart.

The good news was that she had found another job and she knew if she could find someone or some group to help her with the current month's rent, she would be back in business in supporting her family. Because of the grace of God which moves our donors to being generous, we were able to help her. As it often turns out, her tears of sorrow turned into tears of joy. But what she discovered in our chapel – the peace that God gives – we pray will lead her ultimately to the fullness of faith. We must always remind ourselves Who it is that is ultimately in charge. It is our job to be instruments of His saving grace.

When thinking of this woman, I cannot help but think

of St. Mary Magdalene, who was crying early that Easter morning- the morning that changed everything. Jesus asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" (Jn 20:15) Of course she was searching for the Lord. Since we were made for the Lord, the words of St. Augustine rings out loud and clear, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee Oh Lord." This is why the woman mentioned earlier felt peace crying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. It is only in humility do we learn that the peace of the world and the peace of God are different from each other.

Of course, God wants us all to live safe and sound in the world. Thanks to our benefactors, we are able to help the many individuals and families who come to us in crisis to do so. But He also wants us to never forget that the reason He came to us as a helpless baby at that first Christmas, was to die on the cross in order to save us and to start a Church in which we find our salvation.



As we gaze upon the nativity sets in our home and parish, please meditate on that singular love that God has not only for you and your family members but for all of those whom He created in His image and likeness. And since we are all members of His mystical body, please consider helping us spiritually with your prayers and penances, materially with items around your home or farm not needed, including vehicles, and a cash donation according to your means so we can continue to help the many needy individuals and families who come to us in crisis.

Please know that we at Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska will keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers during this most holy time of year when the Son of God became one of us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, by being born to the ever Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas and Christmas season.

Fr. Christopher Kubat
Fr. Christopher Kubat



CSS Christmas Programs serve thousands

With the onset of colder weather and the holidays quickly approaching, this is the time of year that our Social Services programs has the highest amount of requests for help. In an effort to meet the demand during the holidays, the Catholic Social Services Christmas Programs provide gifts to thousands of individuals across southern Nebraska each year. Through our Hastings, Lincoln and Auburn offices, we provide gifts and food baskets for families, children and individuals who might otherwise go without during the holidays. Our ability to provide to those in need through these programs relies greatly on the generosity of our donors and volunteers. Our programs include:

◆**KFOR Operation Santa Claus.** For years, we have participated in Lincoln radio station KFOR's Operation Santa Claus. Clients fill out applications at our office requesting specific items for their children. The requests are sent to KFOR, who place them on area "Giving Trees." The donated presents are delivered to our office, where clients pick them up.

◆**The St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe.** Catholic Social Services works with coordinators at participating parishes to randomly select the age and gender of the child and a toy for children twelve and younger. The toys received are taken to the St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe, located at the CSS offices in the St. Joseph Center at 2241 O Street. The Toy Shoppe will be open on Wednesday, December 22nd from 9am-Noon and 1-6pm. Customers may pick out one new toy and one stocking stuffer for each of their children. Last year, the St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe provided toys for over 3,000 children.

◆**Adopt-A-Family.** Individuals, families and groups can adopt a family. Mostly gifts are purchased, but a food basket can be given. The maximum value of each gift is \$25 per person.

◆**Good Angel Trees Program.** In Hastings, St. Cecilia and St. Michael parishes, along with St. Ann parish in Doniphan, provide gifts and food baskets to needy families in the area. Each parish puts up a christmas tree and places "angels" on the tree with suggestions for gifts for children from baby to 14 years of age. Parishioners purchase gifts and food baskets and return them to the church. Toys are organized for needy families to choose a gift for each of their children and have them gift wrapped by volunteers. Families also receive a food basket from either the Good Angel Program or from Catholic Social Services.

If you, your family or organization would like to assist in one of this year's Christmas Programs, call Curt Krueger at (402) 474-1600 or (800) 981-8242. God bless you for helping make the holidays a little brighter for families and individuals in need across southern Nebraska!

CSS Is US: AUBURN OFFICE SERVES SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

Have you ever watched a child open presents Christmas morning? The excitement is contagious. In some families however, before the excitement comes stress; trying to figure out how to pay the rent and buy Christmas presents. In rural Nebraska there are few avenues of assistance. From our office in Auburn we are able to help with our St. Nicholas Toy Shoppe. Our Auburn office serves the southeastern corner of Nebraska. The mission of the Toy Shoppe is to provide parents who cannot afford a Christmas present for their children the opportunity to "shop for one." Of course there is no cost to the parents. All toys are donated new and unwrapped and our volunteers arrange them by gender and age. Parents are also invited to wrap their presents at the office or a volunteer will do it for them. We have one volunteer who is our official elf, from her jingle hat right down to her pointy toed shoes. This is probably the most fun event we have and the parents are grateful. One mother was so happy she gave tearful hugs to everyone who helped. If you would like to donate a new and unwrapped toy please stop by the Catholic Social Services office, located at 1020 Central Avenue, Auburn or call (402) 274-9362.



Welcome back!

Fr. Christopher Kubat Executive Director

Not long ago, a middle-aged man with tears welling in his eyes told me how grateful he is for our Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center. One of his best friends told him that if it wasn't for the help his son received in our clinic, he is convinced he would not be alive today.

There are many stories that could be told but because of the sensitive nature of these cases, they remain unknown to the general public. But the word has progressively spread through the years of the psychological and spiritual healing individuals and families receive in our clinics.

Our highly trained mental health professionals provide counseling to individuals, couples, and families young and old for a wide range of psychological difficulties. In addition, we answer the Project Rachel/post-abortion counseling hotline for the entire state of Nebraska. Not only do we accept most insurance plans and Medicare, we also have a grant system that supplements payments for individuals who are un-insured or under-insured, thanks to the generous support of the people of southern Nebraska.

The unique quality of our clinic is that we incorporate the Catholic faith in our counseling. How can we divorce the grace of God with what our clinicians can provide?

I am happy to inform you that our new clinical director of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center is Dr. Tony Palmer, who received his PhD at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Palmer was Catholic Social Services' first psychological intern in 2002 and then spent 3 years on the faculty of what is now Divine Mercy University in Arlington, VA. He and his wife Bridget were raised near Atlanta, GA where they have been living since 2006 with their five lovely children. We are blessed to have Tony at CSS and he and his family in Lincoln!

It is easy to remember that Catholic Social Services helps feed the hungry, clothe the naked, helps those who are homeless escape homelessness and those who are not homeless avoid it, etc., but it is sometimes easy

to forget that our charity grant program helps those who cannot afford the full cost of our counseling services for some reason because of being un-insured or under-insured. It is also for this reason we are grateful to our many generous benefactors who by their loving support allow us to help these individuals who access our services young and old.

At this most holy time of year let us be most grateful for the best gift ever given from God our Father – the gift of His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, “Born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive

adoption as sons” (Gal 4:4-5). God the Father sent His Son into the world to save His lost sons and daughters. With the grace of God, and the help of our many generous supporters, we are helping heal the many psychological wounds of those who come to us for help.

Please know that we at Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska will keep you, your family and intentions in our prayers this Christmas, Christmas season and beyond. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas and New Year!!



Dr. Tony Palmer
Director of Clinical Services



The Refrigerator Reference Series

Useful Tips To Help You And Your Family Live Our Catholic Faith

16670

Advent/Christmas 2016

Offering a word of hope this season

For most people that we work with daily, this is a very stressful time of the year. Many families and individuals who struggle with high utility bills and health care bills when the weather turns cold feel the added financial pressures of the holidays. We see in their faces the anxiety of not knowing if they will be able to provide for their family. Not everyone is in a position to help with a monetary gift, but everyone can help by offering a word of encouragement or prayer this season. Once again, we are offering you and your family the opportunity to send a special holiday message of hope.



receive what may be their only Christmas gift. Please take a moment to write a Christmas note to someone who will receive our help this year. You can write your note on the card below, cut along the dotted line, fold it along the solid line and send it to us in the enclosed remit envelope. Be it words of encouragement, or a Christmas greeting or prayer, feel free to write whatever you would like. Some have even made their own additional cards and sent them to us. We will distribute these cards through our CSS Toy Shoppe and other Christmas programs.

During the month of December, we will distribute Christmas food and gifts to thousands of people across southern Nebraska. Through our Toy Shoppe and Christmas Program, many children will

This is your chance to send a holiday message to someone who might not otherwise receive one, someone who may never know that someone else cares enough to think of them.

Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska

2241 O Street•Lincoln, NE 68510•(402) 474-1600•(800) 962-8242•3700 Sheridan Blvd. •Lincoln, NE 68510•(402) 489-1834•(800) 961-6277•333 West Second Street•(402) 463-2112•Hastings, NE 68901
1014 Central Ave. •Auburn, NE 68305•(402) 274-4818•527 Broadway•Imperial, NE 69033•(308) 882-3065•Website: www.csssus.org



Looking for the perfect gift?

You'll find it at one of our CSS Gift & Thrift Stores!

Tired of fighting the crowds at the mall or hiking through the big-box stores searching for the perfect Christmas gift for that special someone? Then check-out the great selection of unique items at one of the Catholic Social Services Gift & Thrift Stores! We operate four Gift & Thrift stores: the St. Louise Gift & Thrift Store in Lincoln, the St. Joseph Gift & Thrift Store in Hastings, the St. Francis Gift & Thrift Store in Auburn and our more recent addition to our diocesan-wide chain of stores, the St. Isidore Gift & Thrift in Imperial.

Each location offers a great selection of quality clothing, household items, furniture and more. Individuals who cannot afford items in our stores can apply to

receive items for free through our emergency services programs in all four communities. All funds raised from the stores, minus minimal administrative costs, are funneled back into our emergency services programs. The items sold at the stores have been donated by generous individuals across Southern Nebraska. We like to think of it as "Giving Squared"- you donate an item to our thrift stores, and we sell it and give the money to the poor. Your gift is "squared" and gives twice: to the person who needed a reduced-cost item, and to a family or individual in need of assistance. Plus, each Gift & Thrift store offers gift cards! Come find that perfect gift at one of our CSS Gift & Thrift stores this holiday season! Visit www.cssisus.org for store hours.



**St. Louise
Gift & Thrift**
2201 O Street
Lincoln
(402) 474-1600



**St. Francis
Gift & Thrift**
1014 Central Ave.
Auburn
(402) 274-4818



**St. Joseph
Gift & Thrift**
325 West 2nd
Hastings
(402) 463-2151



**St. Isidore
Gift & Thrift**
527 Broadway
Imperial
(308) 882-3065

Therefore the Lord himself

will give you a sign.

Behold, a young woman shall conceive

and bear a son,

and shall call his name Immanuel.

-Isaiah 7:14



Catholic Social Services
of Southern Nebraska

A delicious way to help those we serve

Gianna's Java & Gelato- Good coffee. Good food. Great cause.

This time of year it's nice to sit back, sip on a delicious hot drink and take a break from the frenzied pace of the season. When you take that break at Gianna's Java & Gelato at 23rd & O Street in Lincoln, you help support the mission of Catholic Social Services! Just like with our Gift & Thrift Stores, all proceeds from the coffee and gelato shop go towards the support of all Catholic Social Services programs. Some generous donors funded the start up costs for the shop, including the remodeling of existing space at our St. Joseph Center.

wiches for lunch. And when it comes to our coffee, it's not your average cup of Joe! Our beans come from select locations around the world and are specially prepared for us by a family-owned artisan roaster. We'll

even offer our special blend for you to brew at home. Of course we have a great selection of genuine gelato including seasonal favorites such as eggnog, peppermint patty and even apple pie!

Looking for a tasty gift idea? A Gianna's Java & Gelato gift card is a delicious solution to your gift-giving dilemma! Use the coupon below and get an additional \$5 gift card when you purchase a \$25 gift card. Take a break during this hectic season and visit Gianna's Java & Gelato at 23rd and O Street, Lincoln. Good coffee, good food... for a great cause!



We're excited to announce a new breakfast and lunch menu! Scrumptious new breakfast items include omelets made to order, breakfast burritos and breakfast sandwiches. We are now offering seven new hot sand-

Ho, Ho, Yum!

Bring in this coupon and get an extra \$5 on a \$25 gift card purchase!



Coupon expires 1/6/17



2241 O St. Suite T Lincoln, NE (402) 327-6202 gsjavagelato.com



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