



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

The Heart of Christ Award | Mike Hosek

February 2025

Saying “Yes” to Servant Leadership

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25:35-36.

When we hear these words, we often think of the great saints—Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Damien of Molokai. Individuals who embraced this call in radical ways, serving the poorest of the poor in India, selling every possession they had, caring for lepers. Their stories are inspiring, yet they can sometimes lead us to wonder: *Well, what can I do?* Most of us are not in a position to drop everything. We have families, jobs, and responsibilities that are noble and good. The stories of great saints can sometimes feel overwhelming. But the reality is that most often, answering God’s call doesn’t require drastic measures. It simply requires a “yes”, and a willingness to try.

At this year’s 38th Annual Celebration of Hope, we are honored to recognize someone in our own community who shows us what it means to say “yes” to God in our daily lives. **From a young age, Mike Hosek learned leadership and service.**

As a kid, he was involved in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, then continued serving through volunteer work and GodTeens in high school. In college, he joined the Sertoma Club, and today, he serves as President of the St. Patrick’s in Lincoln chapter of St. Vincent de Paul and is an active advocate for the Knights of Columbus.

Mike is a board member for Better Life Insurance based out of Wisconsin. In 2021 the company launched *Walk to End Hunger*, a national event to raise awareness about food insecurity by collecting food and raising funds to purchase food. He took the lead in Lincoln, securing Pius X High School’s track, rallying support from his home parish of St. Patrick’s, and organizing volunteers from the Knights of Columbus. About a dozen Better Life agencies participated nationwide, but Mike’s effort was by far the most successful.

In just one month, they raised 11,000 combined pounds and dollars. Mike’s group was the only group across the U.S. who said yes to a second year. Not only did he keep it going, but he expanded it. He brought in St. John, Sacred Heart, and North American Martyrs parishes to join the Walk. That year, the total grew to 20,100 pounds and dollars.



By the third year, the event had gained so much momentum that the Bishop asked Mike to make it citywide. Every Catholic parish in Lincoln participated, increasing the total to 30,500 pounds and dollars raised in just two months.

In 2024, the Walk to End Hunger became a year-round event. It brought in **47,500 pounds and dollars to the CSS Lincoln Food Market.**

Mike chose to support CSS because he has seen the direct impact of its work. Through St. Vincent de Paul, he visits families in need and witnesses firsthand the reality of food insecurity in our own neighborhoods.

Mike's story answers the question: *What can I do?* It reminds us that when we live out the Gospel, we don't have to change the whole world all at once, **we just have to keep saying yes to what is in front of us.**





PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



#HopeintheGoodLife



PLEASE JOIN US!

Saturday, March 15 | Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln

Social Time: 4:30 p.m. | Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Silent Auction throughout the evening | Live music before & after program

The Heart of Christ Award will be presented to MIKE HOSEK

An evening of food, fellowship, and celebration, supporting the work of Catholic Social Services.

New this year! Our **SILENT AUCTION** features fun items like concert & sports tickets, dine out packages, getaways, & more! Bidding is online only, opens 3/5, and closes during our gala on 3/15.

Bid from anywhere, even if you can't attend our event (but we'd love for you to join us!)

Please RSVP by **March 10** to secure your spot. Fill out the form below or visit csshope.org/celebration2025 to learn more. We look forward to seeing you!



Reservation Response Card

Yes! I'll attend 2025 Celebration of Hope on **Saturday, March 15th.**

Enclosed is \$ _____ to reserve _____ places (\$80 per person).

No, I/We cannot attend, but enclosed is a gift to support the work of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska.

Enclosed is \$ _____ to sponsor the cost of a Priest or Religious to attend.

Name(s) of attendees: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Parish: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Note: There is no charge for priests or religious to attend but a RESERVATION RESPONSE CARD IS REQUIRED for seating purposes.

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. To register online, go to csshope.org/celebration2025

Please list any seating assignment requests on the reverse side of this card. Detach this card and mail with payment **no later than March 10, 2025** as seating may be limited. **CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES PO BOX 30425 LINCOLN NE 68503**

