



# PATRON

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers, please intercede for our farmers. May their crops have sufficient water to grow and are abundant at harvest. Protect them from strong winds, damaging hail and disease. Please keep all farmers safe and may God bless and reward their efforts. Amen.



## So grateful to be able to help *With your help, we are all the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors in need across southern Nebraska*

It's easy for any of us to get caught up in the day to day tasks of our jobs and fall into a pattern of routine. Fortunately (or unfortunately!) as a Client Relations Specialist at Catholic Social Services, I rarely have a "routine" day.

Recently, a mother pushing a stroller with her daughter inside and two other children in tow came in needing assistance with food. I was able to ask someone to cover the front desk while I took them through our food market. As we were talking and walking through the food market, I realized the mother was trying to place all of her bags of food, a few blankets for her children, and some personal care items on the stroller. There was not enough space to carry all of

these items and walk home with three young children.

With permission from my supervisor, I asked her if I could help her by giving her a ride home. She was so thankful and had a big smile on her face. So we all piled into the car and I drove them home. I helped carry the groceries and stroller all the way up to the third floor of their apartment building.



I can't imagine what it would have been like trying to wrangle all of the children and groceries back home. I am grateful for the opportunity, with your help, to be able to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need!

*-Alexis Brouillette  
Client Relations Specialist, Lincoln*

### Inside:

### Summer 2022

**Accepting our own brokenness**



**15 very good minutes in Auburn**



**26th Annual CSS Golf Tourney & Auction set for Aug. 5th**



Hope in the Good Life

# Accepting our own brokenness

**Katie Patrick**  
Executive Director

At Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska, we were blessed to begin our summer with a visit by several missionaries and volunteers from Christ in the City (CIC). Four college students joined two full-time missionaries who came to Lincoln from their homebase in Denver. For three weeks, CIC missionaries spent time with CSS clients, volunteers, and staff. They also visited Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach and walked the streets to encounter and connect with the homeless.



*Christ in the City missionaries and volunteers prepare to hand out meals provided by The Corner Kitchen to the homeless in the downtown Lincoln area*

One afternoon, CIC missionaries shared with us their mission, vision, and a few stories of the relationships they built with their homeless friends in Denver. They provided stories of hope and joy as well as pain and suffering, but every encounter they shared reflected CIC's vision, which is to live in a world where all people, espe-

cially the poor, are seen, known, and loved.

How beautiful is that – to live in a world where all people, especially the poor, are seen, known, and loved. Now think about this: How many times recently have you seen, known, and loved the poor? Hint: It's probably more recently than you think.

When we think, or hear, about the poor, how often do we think of others and not ourselves?

Perhaps we think of those experiencing physical poverty, such as families in the developing world who lack running water and electricity, or perhaps we think of the single

parent who works two jobs to make ends meet. But do we ever stop to think about ourselves? Do we ever look in the mirror and see our own poverty? Do we see our own brokenness?

What CIC missionaries spoke about was the need for us to acknowledge our own brokenness. Because poverty is more than a lack of physical goods

or benefits. It can be spiritual poverty and emotional or psychological poverty. We are all imperfect and broken in some way. CIC's message was a good reminder that only when we recognize and accept our own imperfections can we truly see, know and love the poor.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center

## Graduate student interns impact on counseling program

Each year the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center (IHMCC) is blessed to have graduate student interns as part of the counseling team. This year (August 2021-July 2022) the IHMCC has had three incredible interns: Fr. Conor Sullivan from Divine Mercy University, Virginia; Omar Bravo, Stanford University, California; and Miriam Crinion. University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Each will be moving on in their professional path but their impact will remain. Collectively, these three have provided over 5,000 hours of service to our agency! We thank them for sharing their time and talent with us and wish them well. We are eager to welcome our next interns, Michael Stout and Timothy White, who will be joining us this August.



Fr. Conor  
Sullivan



Miriam  
Crinion



Omar  
Bravo

# 15 very good minutes

April Boellstorff

Auburn Regional Director

I decided to work from home that Monday. I recently returned from a family wedding in Louisiana, and my stomach was still adjusting to my new Cajun diet. Looking back, I believe God created that morning at home for an evening of serving.

I received a call from "Linda", a hard working grandmother who is raising her grandchildren. She lives a distance away from our Auburn office, we've served her and her family in the past. I tell her to call anytime she happens to be coming to Auburn and I'll do my best to assist her needs.

Linda listens well. She called me three times in a row until I answered! It was almost evening, but she told me she had been to the doctor's office and had possibly torn her rotator cuff while working. She cleans homes and offices- this injury would certainly be a challenge for her.

I told her I'd come meet her, and she was waiting at the office when I arrived. We chatted as we packed her groceries, making sure to lightly fill each sack so she could carry them with her good arm. As we approached the front door, a lady in a wheelchair rolling by caught my attention.

I apologized to Linda and asked her to hang tight for a minute. "Diane!" I called out from my front door. Diane turned her wheelchair around and gave me a friendly hello. "Yay! You got your wheelchair! Come in!"

I invited Diane inside. It was hot and I wanted to visit with her. I introduced her to Linda. I knew they would both be receptive and kind to one another. Linda shared her shoulder dilemma with Diane. Diane told Linda how CSS assisted her with a new wheelchair. She even humored Linda with the story of why she needed a new wheelchair. "There I was, rolling up the ramp to the post office, and the tire rolled right off my wheelchair down the ramp! It was dry rotting and had its last day! The guy across the

street at the insurance agency came over and saved me. He gave me a ride to the tire repair shop. I don't know what I would have done if he hadn't helped me." We giggled and gave thanks for small town kindness.

Diane asked for food, but said she would first help Linda out with her groceries. Wait... what? Linda counter-offered by telling Diane to choose her groceries first, then and she would help her load them into her car. It was BEAUTIFUL. Linda and Diane showed mercy, compassion and kindness to each other. One with a rotator cuff injury, the other in a wheelchair. Both offering to help the other carry out their groceries. Both in need of kindness and friendship. Both colliding in this moment because of Catholic Social Service on this little corner in Auburn, Nebraska. My heart exploded.



I was only at my office for 15 minutes that day. In 15 minutes, God created an amazing moment that rocked my heart and I'm sure theirs. I told them they were both amazing, but I would up the offer and take all of their groceries out with them.

I asked Diane if she would be comfortable with me sharing her story and photo of her with her new wheels. She obliged. She told me she grew up Catholic, so we decided to take a photo at our CSS chapel where Diane wheeled herself right up to the front. I was a bit embarrassed because I noticed the Sanctuary Lamp, representing Christ ever present by it's continuous glow, was not looking very present. Since I had not been to work that Monday morning and returned late Sunday evening from Louisiana, the candle had burned out. "I am so sorry, Jesus."

After Diane left, I hustled into the chapel to change the candle, apologizing over and over as I approached the altar. I lit a new candle and replaced it. I noticed the tiniest little flame still glowing on the wick of what I thought was a burned out candle. That's God. Always there even when you don't think he is. Even when you don't notice Him. Even when it's hard to see Him.

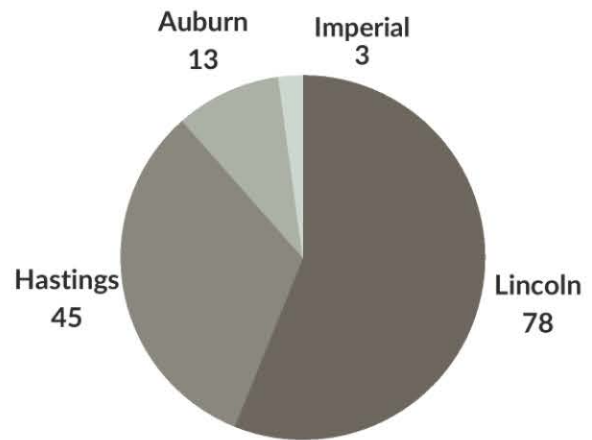
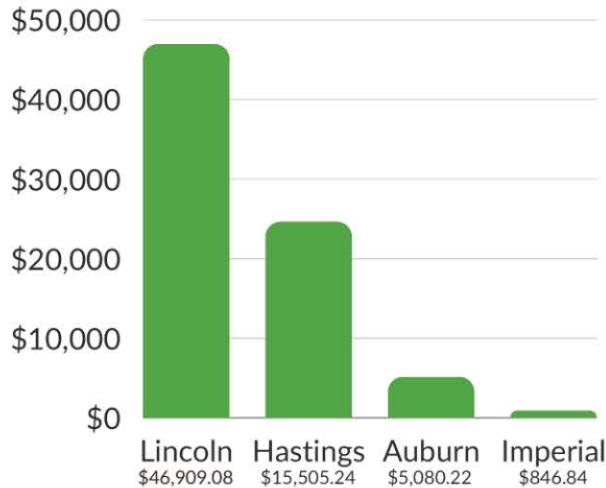
Even when you only have 15 good minutes in your day, look for Him. Slow down and look closely. I bet He's right there and hoping you see His eternal light.

## QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

# Emergency Services

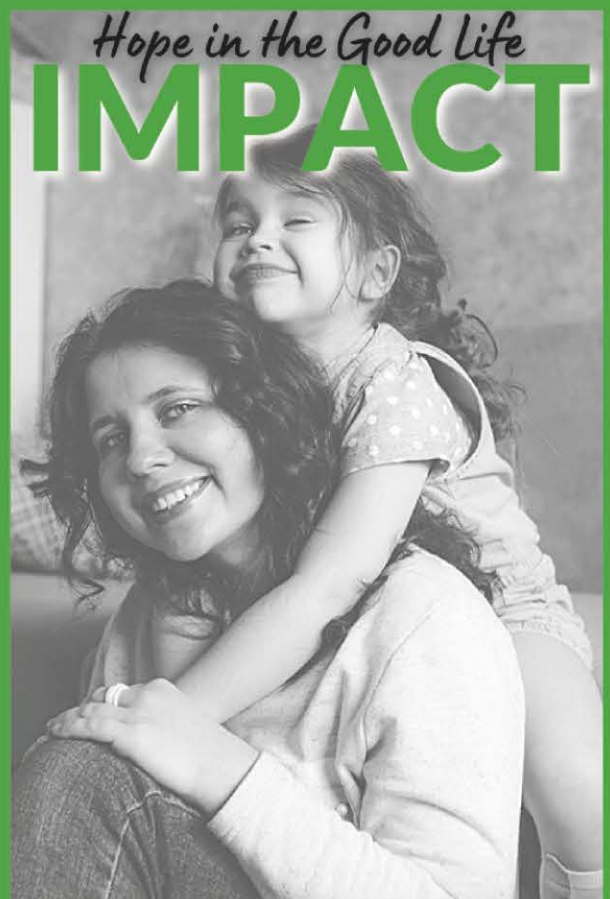


Total financial & item assistance provided by location during the first quarter of 2022:



Number of clients served through each CSS office location

CSS provided our southern Nebraska neighbors with \$68,341.38 in overall cash and in-kind assistance from January to March 2022. This support covers rent payments, provides shelter and food, pays utility and medical bills, buys bus tickets, repairs vehicles... and also alleviates the barriers that cause so much stress and worry and literally keeps our clients up at night. Quite often, our grateful clients circle back when things calm down in their lives and express their appreciation for the help- like this email recently received by our Emergency Services team: *I really appreciate your help. As soon as I can get all caught up I plan to donate to your cause. You don't know how much this means to me as I have had sleepless nights worrying how I would be able to come up with the money to pay my rent... God bless you and your organization. Together, we provided this family with not only a hand-up... we brought peace of mind and Hope in the Good Life.*





## QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

# Food Market Services

During the first quarter of 2022, **77.6 TONS** (yes, TONS!) of food was distributed to southern Nebraska including our Hastings Food Recovery program.

### Tons of food by CSS office location

Lincoln  
18.8 tons  
Auburn  
2.8 tons



Hastings  
56 tons

### Households served through our Lincoln Food Market

March  
125



January  
140

February  
136

Our Hastings office distributed **107,926 pounds of food** to 17 pantries throughout southcentral and southwestern Nebraska.



This quarter, the **Lincoln Food Market** began a few new projects focusing on nutritional education. In January, Lincoln Food Market Coordinator Doris Schueth shared a "5 Can Soup" recipe and ingredients with our Food Market clients. At the same time, we launched the new Hope in the Good Life Recipe blog on our agency website ([csshope.org/recipes](http://csshope.org/recipes)). We celebrated March as National Nutrition Month through a series of social media posts each Friday, marketed and tagged as #FoodMarketFriday. The content highlighted nutrition tips and encouraged readers to donate healthy items most needed by our clients. We continue to educate our supporters on the need for healthy food choices for our clients and encourage donors to use our updated list of healthy food market needs at [csshope.org/foodmarketneeds](http://csshope.org/foodmarketneeds).



See our full quarterly impact report at  
[CSSHOPE.ORG/IMPACTREPORT](http://CSSHOPE.ORG/IMPACTREPORT)





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*#HopeintheGoodLife*

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Hope in the Good Life

Summer 2022

## CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction tees up on August 5th

On Friday, August 5th, Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln will host the 26th annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction. This year's event will be held in memory of Sandie Gonnerman. An accountant for CSS for over 25 years, Sandie passed away last November.

There are a number of ways to participate in this important fundraising event- even if you aren't a golfer:

**Golfers.** Includes cart, lunch and invitation to the cook-out for golfers and a guest. Team space is limited.

**Hole sponsor.** This sponsorship allows your name, com-

pany name or parish organization to appear at a tee-box during the tournament.

**Priest Sponsor.** This underwrites the cost for a priest to play in the tournament.

**Memorial Gift.** A memorial gift may be made to Catholic Social Services in honor of a loved one.

**Auction Gift.** You may donate an item or service to be offered on the silent or live auction.

**Not a golfer? You can still participate in the silent auction!** Again this year, all bidding will take place via your smart phone. Visit [csshope.org](http://csshope.org) to see how you can participate in the fun and bidding!

To register for the tourney, visit [csshope.org/golf2022](http://csshope.org/golf2022) or call 402-430-5626 for more information.



Do you have an antique or collectible item that is collecting dust? Maybe a nice vehicle you no longer need? If you or your business have an item or service for the silent auction, drop us a note in the enclosed envelope, call (402) 430-5626, or e-mail the information to [hello@cssisus.org](mailto:hello@cssisus.org).

