

ABOUT OUR WORK

ACROSS TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND SQUARE MILES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Our MISSION: To perform the works of mercy in response to the call of God.

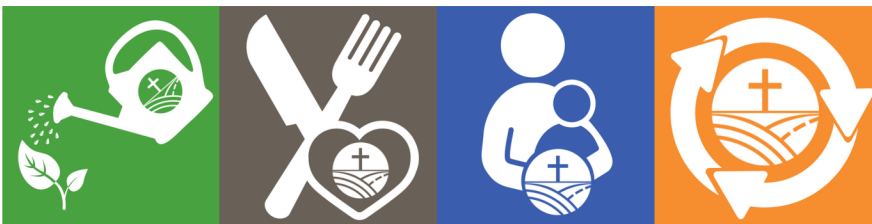
Our VISION: To inspire hope and love in every encounter.

Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska is comprised of five key program areas with each program encompassing multiple projects and services:

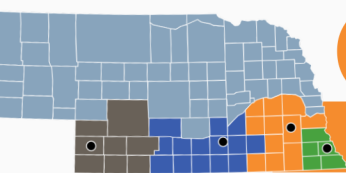
- **Family Support Services:** Financial assistance, employment services, furniture delivery, thrift store gift cards, vehicle program, and walk-in services such as personal care items, diapers, and more.
- **Food Market & Meal Services:** Client-choice food market, Catholic School Food Market Program, Hastings Food Recovery Program, breakfast and lunch programs.
- **Immigration Legal Services:** Legally represent clients on USCIS petitions and applications.
- **Refugee Resettlement Services & Employment:** Welcoming new arrivals and secondary migrants, refugee employment services, community and cultural orientation.
- **St. Gianna Program (SGP):** Housing for survivors of domestic violence, counseling onsite, and community-based learning opportunities for residents.

Our SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE:

- **Gift & Thrift Stores** Our sorted, clean, and organized Gift & Thrift stores in Lincoln, Hastings, Auburn, and Imperial are another way CSS brings **Hope in the Good Life** while elevating the dignity of the person. Individuals who cannot afford items in our stores can apply to receive items for free through our Family Support programs in each of our outreach offices. The sales of store goods and recycled items pay for our staff and overhead costs. All of the merchandise in our stores has been donated by our generous supporters across Southern Nebraska. **Learn more at csshope.org/thriftstores.**
- **Online Sales** CSS is answering the call and leading the way in sustainability and environmental responsibility. We invite you to join us in our efforts to be good stewards of our environment by donating new and used items to CSS. Our goal is to extend the lifecycle of your donations through regifting, reselling, or recycling them and therefore mitigating the potential of your items ending up in the landfill. When you donate an item to one of our four thrift stores or e-commerce, we either **regift** it to a family in need or **resell** it. All funds from resold items are then used to assist clients and families needing financial assistance for rent, utilities, medical bills, or gas. If we cannot resell or regift your item, we **recycle** it so it can be repurposed and help the environment. **Learn more at csshope.org/linesales.**



Learn more about our initiatives to **GROW** | **NOURISH** | **NURTURE** | **SUSTAIN**
HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE
and join in our work: csshope.org



CSS LINCOLN REGION

SERVING BUTLER, CASS, GAGE, JEFFERSON, LANCASTER, POLK, SALINE, SAUNDERS, SEWARD, THAYER, AND YORK COUNTIES

\$52,916.92

Total assistance
Provided by Family
Support Services



184

Clients helped by our
Refugee Resettlement
Services team



Items sold at
St. Louise
Gift & Thrift:

39,153

Total CSS Lincoln
volunteer
hours:

1952.3



Bed nights
provided
through
St. Gianna
Program:

3,588



1694

Neighbors fed by
Lincoln Food Market

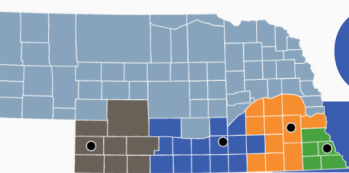
IMPACT IN ACTION: Panel Discussion



During our innovative and insightful panel conversation at Celebration of Hope on March 11th, we examined how CSS has helped refugees and immigrants find Hope in the Good Life. Moderated by CSS Development Officer **John Soukup**, our panelists included CSS Executive Director **Katie Patrick**; **Fr. Justin Fulton**, former Executive Director of CSS and now the Vicar General of the Diocese of Lincoln; **Faheem Rashidi**, an Afghan refugee who came to the U.S. in 2000 with his family; and **Oleg Stepanyuk**, a Ukrainian refugee who came here with his family in 1996. Both Faheem and Oleg, along with their families, were resettled in Lincoln by CSS. During the panel, Faheem, having lost his father in Afghanistan when he was a young boy, talked about how important personal relationships were when he first arrived. He was mentored by a family from the Lincoln Diocese, who, as time went on, continued to support and guide him in his new life here in Nebraska. After high school, Rashidi went on to college and received his Doctor of Pharmacy. Today, he is the owner of the Lincoln Pharmacy. Rashidi said, "In all of my big decisions, I went to my mentor for advice. He is like a big brother to me and I'm very grateful for that." Oleg shared with us his role in helping Ukrainian newcomers, as he came with an earlier wave of Ukrainian immigrants. He is now in a position to be able to help others, and he does so with great humility.

Watch our panel recording to learn more about a refugee's journey and why we are called to "welcome the stranger" by visiting our website's new content page: csshope.org/watch.





CSS HASTINGS REGION

SERVING ADAMS, CLAY, DAWSON, FILLMORE, FRANKLIN, FURNAS, GOSPER, HALL, HAMILTON, HARLAN, KEARNEY, NUCKOLLS, PHELPS, & WEBSTER COUNTIES

Total financial support provided:
\$28,286.86

Total sack lunches distributed:

9,696

Total rent assistance provided:
\$14,168.50

Volunteers by month:

January:

91

February:

87

March:

87

Total pounds of food distributed including Food Recovery program:

103,914

We travel three different routes every month and help keep 14 area pantries stocked.



IMPACT IN ACTION: Hope in the Good Life partners

A few days before the accident, Bob's daughter adopted three young children. To anyone who is familiar with the process of adoption, you know and understand how challenging that can be: the paperwork, the home visits, the references, the waiting. It was a joyous time indeed when the adoption was finalized for this family living in central Nebraska! However, the accident was very bad and Bob's daughter, the mother of these three young children, died. As next of kin, he became the sole provider - there are now 11 family members in his household; 11 mouths to feed.

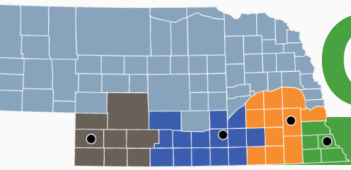
When our food pantry partner was making his usual rounds, delivering food boxes door to door in this particular town, he stopped to visit with Bob. Bob opened the door to accept the food boxes, and broke down. He shared with our partner volunteer the tragic loss of his daughter and the fear and anxiety he felt over now being the sole provider for three additional children. It's scary when you don't know the future, because as much as you love someone, caring for and providing for them under predictable circumstances can be tough - imagine caring for and providing for family and those you love under uncertain circumstances.

Recognizing Bob's struggle and need, our volunteer partner returned to his local food pantry and called our staff in Hastings to request two boxes of additional meat, in addition to their six boxes of non-perishable food. We fulfilled their request and connected them to our Family Support Services team for financial assistance. **The relationships that CSS maintains with its local food pantries across central Nebraska made this connection and help for Bob and his family possible.** - Katie Patrick, CSS Executive Director



CONNECT | DONATE | VOLUNTEER csshope.org/Hastings

HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE @cssshastings @StJosephGiftThriftHastings



CSS AUBURN REGION

SERVING JOHNSON, NEMAHA, OTOE, PAWNEE, & RICHARDSON COUNTIES

\$4,099.96

Total Financial Support Provided



1,524

Total St. Francis Gift & Thrift Encounters (cash register transactions)



598:35

Total Volunteer Hours & Minutes



198

Neighbors fed by Auburn Food Pantry



16

Total households helped financially

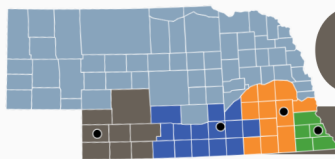


IMPACT IN ACTION: "God works through us"

Tonya P has advanced stage 4 T-Cell Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Parkinson's disease. She had tests and doctor appointments scheduled for last Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. She and her husband do not own a vehicle, so a family member drove them 1 ½ hours to Omaha on Sunday for her upcoming tests and doctor appointments. The discounted hotel where they had reserved a room had double-booked their reservation, so they did not have the lodging they had planned on. They reached out to the Hope Lodge, but it was also full, so they had nowhere to stay. Tonya called our Monday morning Family Support Services call line. She was understandably distraught. She was reaching out to anyone she could think of. Agencies in Omaha could not help her because she did not live in their area, and agencies, where she lives, could not help her because she was asking for temporary housing. CSS does not usually help with hotel rooms either, but the desperation in her voice was coming through. After contacting other agencies I knew of and receiving several "We cannot help" responses, I researched hotel options close to her appointments and booked a room for three nights for them. When I told her that CSS would pay for her lodging, her voice became stronger, and she was more composed. **The stress of her illnesses is immense; knowing where she will sleep should not add to the weight on her shoulders.** - HOPE, CSS AUBURN TEAM MEMBER

HOTEL





CSS IMPERIAL REGION

SERVING CHASE, DUNDY, FRONTIER, HAYS, HITCHCOCK, LINCOLN, PERKINS, AND RED WILLOW COUNTIES

CSS Imperial Family Support Services brought **HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE** in many ways during this quarter, including assistance with:



UNEXPECTED BILLS

for a neighbor after her young fiancée passed away.

IMMEDIATE SUPPLIES

for a family with two small children (and one on the way) whose house burned down.

RENT

for a senior neighbor, injured on the job, after workman's comp didn't pay enough to cover all her bills.
She'd never asked for help before. It was very humbling to her. She was so grateful.

A WINTER HEATING BILL

for a neighbor, unable to work due to multiple mental health diagnoses, whose husband's job didn't pay well enough to cover the amount.

IMPACT IN ACTION: Encounters & Connections

From January 1st to March 31st, CSS Imperial's **St. Isidore Gift & Thrift** recorded **848 cash register encounters**. This number represents much more than mere transactions. Each encounter is an opportunity to connect with neighbors, learn more about their day-to-day-lives, and discuss a wide variety of topics (including many lively faith-based conversations!) In February, our **CSS Imperial Family Support team** connected remotely with the **Department of Insurance** and worked cooperatively to help people understand and sign up for Medicare. In March, we partnered with the **McCook Early Development Network** to provide needed items for a family in crisis after a home fire. We were blessed, and southwestern Nebraska neighbors were fed, thanks to a generous Lenten food drive from **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**. During the quarter, our volunteers donated **256 hours**. We simply couldn't do our work without all of these crucial **HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE** community connections.

