



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

December 2020

St. Mary di Rosa/Michael Krell Family

### Written in every human heart

St. Mary di Rosa is a saint not a lot of people have heard of. The Church celebrates her feast day on December 15<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary di Rosa was known to have “opened doors for an opportunity with God.” One story includes her at a hospital during a war. As she and her sisters cared for those wounded by the war, enemies came to ransack the hospital. As the enemy soldiers came to the door, St. Mary di Rosa opened the door to them, while holding a Crucifix of Jesus along with two sisters who held candles. The enemy soldiers fled out of shame because of these women displaying their faith and courage. St. Mary opened the door to Christ who shielded the sisters from the soldiers.



Later in life St. Mary di Rosa opened doors for women who were living on the streets. She set up a boarding house for girls who were being manipulated because of their poverty on the streets. She opened the doors to these women for another opportunity to meet God.

Recently, some saints-in-the-making from Plattsmouth helped out St. Gianna Women’s Homes----which houses women and children who are fleeing from manipulation and danger. But first, some background on this story. We had just decided to upgrade our Wi-Fi capabilities for the women, children, sisters and staff of St. Gianna’s because we had encountered numerous problems with our internet connectivity. With some of the women working from their homes at St. Gianna’s and children learning virtually as well due to the pandemic, a large expense was necessary for the Wi-Fi upgrade. We decided the women and children needed it----they need to work and children need the tools for a good education. We decided to make the purchase and we said maybe we should look for a donor to help cover the extra costs....

An hour later we got an unsolicited call from a family in Plattsmouth. Michael Krell and his family called our Director of Advancement, Michelle Birkel, and

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**Last year,  
St. Gianna  
Women’s  
Homes  
provided  
17,280  
nights of  
lodging and  
safety for  
59 families.**

**#HopeintheGoodLife**



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## #HopeintheGoodLife

### *Written in every human heart (continued)*

told us they wanted to donate monthly directly to St. Gianna Women's Homes. When we calculated the monthly gift into a full year we were able to cover the very large purchase for the Wi-Fi upgrade!! Can you believe it? Yes.....we believe it..... God provides.

Michael and his family know that God has written in every human heart the need to give and to love others. Just like Mary di Rosa giving and opening her heart to God and to others, the Krell's in Plattsmouth have opened their hearts to God and shared that love with the women and children of St. Gianna's.

If you might want to give monthly to CSS contact Michelle Birkel at 402-327-6235 or mbirkel@cssisus.org.

Thank you, Michael and family, for helping bring Hope in the Good Life and helping out our faith and belief that God will always provide through the generosity of His people!

St. Mary di Rosa, pray for us.

### Hope in the Good Life

## A year of bringing Hope

At Catholic Social Services, we want to share our story of what we do across the 23,000 square miles of the Diocese. Below are a few statistics that show how God works through CSS to bring hope to people daily from Venango to Verdon, Palisade to Plattsmouth and all points in between this year:

- **327 tons of food** given to the hurting and hungry of southern Nebraska.
- **5,268 sessions and 501 unique individuals** served through the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center.
- **\$1.8 million dollars** in overall cash and in-kind assistance yearly. This can go from help in paying rent, providing shelter, providing money for food, electricity, water, a bus ticket, car repairs, medical bills, and anything else that life throws one's way.

*Hope in the Good Life* is the monthly newsletter of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska. To receive our monthly publication, drop us a note in the enclosed envelope. If you would like to receive our updates electronically, visit [www.cssishope.org/connect](http://www.cssishope.org/connect).