



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

July 2021

St. Elizabeth of Portugal/Colleen Ozanne

Starting with feeding one

Born in 1271, St. Elizabeth of Portugal was the daughter of King Peter III of Aragon. She was named after her great-aunt, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, whose love for the poor she also inherited. She endured a difficult marriage to King Denis of Portugal, and after her husband's death she became a Franciscan Tertiary.

A desire to serve the needy was a distinguishing part of St. Elizabeth's character. Her many charitable works included opening a hospital, a home for homeless girls, an orphanage, and a monastery of Poor Clare nuns in Coimbra. It was in this community that Elizabeth became a Franciscan Tertiary after her husband's death in 1325.

Of St. Elizabeth, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "...she gave drink and eat to those who came to her door, she got clothes, paid debts, looked after the sick and buried the dead... She would

hand the food out personally and carefully oversaw clothes and shelter for the poor..."

St. Elizabeth of Portugal saw the face of Christ in those she served. Colleen Ozanne does, as well.

Colleen has been a resident of Lincoln for over three decades. As a young widow with two small children, she retired early from her public affairs position to focus on her family. She became involved in her children's schools, the neighborhood, and her church. As time went on, her children gently nudged her into doing something more for herself.

During her career in public affairs, her many hats included Media Spokesperson, Registered Lobbyist for the Nebraska Legislature, and Philanthropy Coordinator distributing funds to schools, nonprofits, and communities across the state. It was a natural transi-



In one quarter, our Lincoln Emergency Services program distributed \$42,325 to 56 households for rent, utilities and other needs

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(Continued on back page)



PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



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Starting with feeding one *(continued)*

tion for Colleen to volunteer in the community that she knew so well. Colleen soon found an opportunity at St. Louise Gift & Thrift Store.

For eleven years, Colleen has been processing donated shoes for men, women, and children to be sold or given away at St. Louise Gift & Thrift Store. A couple of years ago, CSS learned of her relationship with surrounding assisted living facilities. Through her current work with State Medicare, Colleen shares important health information with the elderly at senior centers and assisted living homes. She has built great relationships with the supervisors, staff, and patrons and is always quick to identify and respond to their other needs.

When CSS receives an excess of nonperishable goods, adult diapers, or fresh fruit and vegetables, Colleen helps redistribute the items to those who need them. If we're coming up on a weekend and the vegetables or fruit that we have may go bad, Colleen quickly comes by and fills her car with items to take to any one of the many places she serves across southern Nebraska such as Firth, Beatrice, Seward, Nebraska City, and Crete. She has touched the lives of hundreds of our clients and taken donations on the road to reach even more people in need.

Mother Teresa once said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Thank you, Colleen, for starting with one person, and now feeding hundreds.

Bringing Hope in the Good Life

"What I'm doing brings purpose to my life."

"Being the Volunteer and Food Market Coordinator here at CSS is the perfect fit for me. I love interacting with others, serving the poor, and having co-workers who are the hands and feet of Christ to those they encounter... what I'm doing brings so much purpose to my life."

Desirae Hagenbucher recently joined CSS as the Volunteer and Food Market Coordinator, and her desire to interact with those we serve is a big reason she wanted to be a part of our mission. If you are interested in a career that helps bring Hope in the Good Life, we have the following openings:

- Vice President of Programs- Lincoln
- Gift & Thrift Manager- Auburn
- Licensed Mental Health Practitioner- Lincoln
- Regional Director- Hastings

To learn more or to apply for these positions, visit cssshope.org/careers.



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