



PATRON

Fall 2021

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

“Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.”

-Francis of Assisi



The return of offering Hope *Auburn Outreach Center, Gift & Thrift to reopen soon*

“When’s the Gift & Thrift going to reopen?” That’s a question that we hear a lot around Auburn. Though our doors have been closed, we’ve been keeping busy over the past few months.

Since February of this year, we’ve been offering food pantry & personal care items, financial assistance, and community outreach to the five surrounding counties at the Auburn CSS Outreach Office. Julie Kreifels was hired in August as St. Francis Gift & Thrift Store Manager. Our army of dedicated volunteers have been helping us reorganize the store, utilizing the vertical space with newly donated fixtures, a new checkout center, and a better flow for all. We even gathered with them in July for a “thank you” ice cream social. A generous donor has provided the pews for our chapel and store fixtures. What a blessing!

The mission of reopening the gift & thrift store is to sustain and support the social

service work Catholic Social Services provides in and around the Auburn area. Our two buildings are connected, creating a fantastic facility located in the heart of Auburn. It’s a family and friend centered organization where all are welcome- donors, volunteers, shoppers and those in need of a hand up. It’s also a fun place to be while working hard to fulfill the call as Christians in serving one another!

Thank you, southeast Nebraska patrons, for your patience, love, and support during this transitional phase. Watch for updates at csshope.org as we draw closer to our Grand Reopening this fall, hopefully around the Feast Day of St. Francis! We invite you to stop by -- we’d love to show you around, introduce you to what we do, or welcome you back.

April Boellstorff
Director of Social Services/Operations-
Auburn



Inside:

Fall 2021

Putting out the welcome mat



The “calmer of the seas”



You could win \$5,000!

\$5,000 GIVEAWAY!
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PLUM CREEK WAGYU

Hope in the Good Life

Putting out the welcome mat

Katie Patrick
Executive Director

Due to global COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, it has been nearly eight months since Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska welcomed a refugee family, so I'm sure you can imagine the excitement in our office when we received a flight notification in August for a family of ten from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

They arrived on Wednesday, August 25th after a two-day journey from a Zambian refugee camp where they had been living for the past fourteen years. Kersha Kahrs, our senior case manager, and myself along with a Kisawhili interpreter, greeted the family late that night at the Lincoln Airport. Despite their exhaustion, they were so captivated by the lights of downtown, in particular the Husker Stadium where American football is played.

However, most of the questions coming from the two teenagers in my car were about school - how soon can they start - where is the school located - what is the school's name? Their curiosity and excitement to begin school in the U.S. was perfectly timed because as we arrived at their rental, we invited them into a fully furnished home complete with a table full of school supplies. They were so excited!



In the week leading up to their arrival, we received countless donations from the community in response to our call for household items, bedding, kitchen supplies, etc. As donations poured in, so too did volunteers who organized and helped set up the family's new home. We received a variety of school supplies, including backpacks, pencils, crayons, markers, folders, paper, glue sticks, and more.

It was inspiring to see how the Lincoln community rallied behind this family, who they never met and probably will never meet. Together, we met not only their basic needs but now the kids are all ready for their first day in school in the United States, which for this family is a dream come true.

Our work at CSS is never finished. As we work with this family and guide them on their path toward self-sufficiency, we are also preparing to receive any number of Afghan arrivals in the coming weeks and months. We remain deeply grateful to our donors who support us with their time, talents, and treasure, and through your gifts and time support those who need it. Please continue to follow us on social media or check our website for more opportunities to help all those in need.

Food Market & Meal Services-Lincoln

In the first six months of the year, our Lincoln Food Market & Meal Services program provided:



2,473

breakfast burritos
catered by
Chez SoDo



4,955

sack lunches
prepared by Knights
of Columbus and
CSS volunteers



21 lbs.

of produce grown in
our own onsite
greenhouse

The “calmer of the seas”

Dr. Courtney Miller
Vice President of Clinical Services

Greetings from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center (IHMCC)! The winds of change are in the air as summer gives way to the beginning of fall. While it is impossible to give a definite date to this transition, we can all recognize signs it is present. School supplies have been cleared from store shelves, children can be seen carrying backpacks on the way to school, sounds of marching band practice fill the morning air, and the football stadium is filled on game day with fans. We are told, and know to be true, by both nature and God that “To everything there is a season” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

We at the IHMCC have also experienced many “seasons.” Recently closing out one fiscal year and beginning another, we give thanks for the many blessings that allowed us to provide the breadth of services reflected in our 2020-2021 IHMCC Executive Summary. To list a few, we provided 5198 individual therapy sessions services and 255 family/marital sessions. These services were provided through both in-person and telehealth delivery, covering over 12 additional service areas in Nebraska outside of Lincoln and three service areas in Kansas. Through a CARES grant, 84 individuals were able to receive services free of charge for a total of \$45,923.17. The IHMCC continued to provide group therapy, conduct vocational and psychological assessments, maintain the adoption search program, support Project Rachel counseling, and offer two online programs (Loving Hearts & Little Feet, a mom-and-baby group, and Partners on the Journey, a marriage enrichment series).



In addition, the IHMCC offers the only Catholic APA-accredited predoctoral internship program in the nation as part of the Nebraska Internship Consortium in Professional Psychology.

Our Clinical Program funds one or two doctoral interns in the clinical track each year, beginning August 1 and concluding the following July 31. On July 31, 2021, we congratulated Jennifer Lanuzga, M.Psy. on completing her internship with the IHMCC as she moved back east to pursue her post doctoral experience. On August 1, 2021, we welcomed two new predoctoral interns to our agency: Omar Bravo, M.S. from the Stanford Psy.D. Consortium and Fr. Conor Sullivan, M.Psy. from the Institute for the Psychological Sciences. We are excited to also have

Jillian Giesselmann, B.A. as a mental health intern from Doane University and Miriam Crinion, M.A. as a school psychology practicum student from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. These interns have allowed us to expand our outreach services to provide on-site mental health services for a total of 64 hours per week across 5 community sites.

While we highlight what is good and we are thankful for such, this year has not been without challenges. We continued to work through a world-wide pandemic. We have experienced operational shifts, staff changes, and financial considerations. We also worked for 6 weeks without air conditioning in our office and for 7 more weeks with window AC units while a new central unit was being manufactured, shipped, and installed. But throughout these challenges, we have remained steadfast in our mission and in our prayer and have kept our focus on our Blessed Mother, who leads us through any storm to her Son.

I recently came to learn of Stella Maris and have found comfort in this name. The Catholic Church traditionally celebrates the feast of Mary Stella Maris or Mary, Star of the Sea, on September 27. Seafarers have invoked Mary,

(Continued on back page)

Catholic School Food Market returns

Desirae Hagenbucher

Volunteer & Food Market Coordinator, Lincoln

School is back in session! The return of students to the classroom also marks the return of the Catholic School Food Market Program. Throughout the school year, Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska provides bags of food to families at Blessed Sacrament, St. Teresa's and St. Patrick's Catholic schools in Lincoln. On rotating Tuesdays of each month, our head truck driver Bill Feltes picks up the food from the Food Bank of Lincoln and delivers to the school we are serving that particular week. Volunteers, Bill and I meet at each school an hour before the distribution begins to bag up the appropriate amount of food for the families.

As children are dismissed from school, they have the opportunity to grab a bag of food to bring home to their families. There are no parameters that must be met in order to get a bag of food-any family who is in need that month, no matter what, can take a bag with no questions asked. This provides a measure of comfort and anonymity and helps kids to not shy away from taking the food. After all, what kid wouldn't take a free bag of food if offered?

Sometimes the need in our community is not easily apparent, but when talking to teachers or principals at each school, you get that fresh perspective of what families are facing. At CSS, we strive to provide hope in the good life and to perform the works of mercy-and that is exactly what we are doing for these schools and these families. The principal at St. Patrick's said, "We had a mom last year who



told me she doesn't usually take the bag of food, but she had just had a miscarriage and just couldn't deal with groceries at the moment. She told me how much she appreciated what CSS was doing through this program."

Trying to anticipate the needs of our community and the people we serve is something that we strive to do. Along with providing food to the schools, we also reached out to those schools asking if we could provide school supplies. St. Patrick's responded with a wish list from their teachers on art supplies they would love to have. Thankfully, we were able to give them everything on their wish list. As you can see from the picture above, the St. Patrick's staff was so appreciative to receive these art supplies! We could not accomplish the work we do if not for our donors, staff, volunteers and ultimately, God. Thank you for helping us bring Hope in the Good Life to those we serve!

25TH CSS MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC & AUCTION A SUCCESS

Held in memory of Jack Hoenig and Marilyn Clyne Hoenig, this year's CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction was one of our most successful events. The tourney took place on August 6th at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln and netted over \$105,000.00 for our programs. Here are the results of the tournament:



Morning First Flight

- 54-Paper Tiger Shredding
- 58-Team Meyesenburg

Afternoon First Flight

- 53-Walker Point S
- 53-Nebraska Dermatology

Morning Second Flight

- 64-Ameritas Financial Center- Ben Garrett/Ben Santo
- 64-Lincoln Mattress & Furniture

Afternoon Second Flight

- 64-Steve Lang Insurance Agency
- 65-Cheever Construction

Morning Third Flight

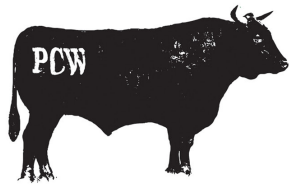
- 69-Guardian Angels
- 70-CHI Health St. Elizabeth/Nebraska Heart

Afternoon Third Flight

- 69-Fr. Gyhra's Team
- 69-Nebraska Catholic Conference

\$5,000 GIVEAWAY!

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www.plumcreekwagyubeef.com

Talk about a “Cash Cow”!

Who couldn't use an extra five grand? Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska is giving away \$5,000 courtesy of Plum Creek Wagyu Beef! Raffle tickets are **1 for \$20.00 or 3 for \$50.00**. Fill out the form below and send it to us with your check. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the internet, through the mail or by phone. You will be sent a receipt for your order. Mail in orders must be received by 11/13/2021. Tickets can also be purchased at CSS Gift & Thrift Stores in Lincoln and Hastings. The winner will be drawn on Sunday, November 14, 2021. See www.csshope.org/2021raffle for a complete set of raffle rules.

\$5,000 GIVEAWAY RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Of Tickets _____ Amount enclosed _____ (1 ticket for \$20 or 3 tickets for \$50)

Please make checks payable to Catholic Social Services. Mail orders must be **received by Saturday, November 13, 2021** in order to be included in the drawing. Due to postal regulations, raffle ticket stubs cannot be returned by mail for purchases over the Internet, through the mail or by phone. However, a receipt of your purchase with receipt number will be sent to you via US Mail. When an order is placed, we will complete the ticket by filling in the name, address, and phone number, and we will drop the ticket in the barrel at our office. At the drawing, the winner will be notified based on the name and information on the ticket. See our website at www.csshope.org/2021raffle for complete set of rules.



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#HopeintheGoodLife



(S.A.G.)

The Patron

Fall 2021

The "calmer of the seas" (Continued from page 3)

Star of the Sea, for centuries as she has been called the "calmer of storms." However, we too can ask Mary to calm the storms in our lives and guide us just like the North Star.

We at the IHMCC thank you for your prayers as we strive to provide faith-integrated counseling and for your financial support, which allows us to continue to expand our services. May God bless you and your family in all seasons! Stella Maris, guide us!

Last year, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Counseling Center provided

3,640

telehealth counseling sessions



Immaculate Heart of Mary
Counseling Center

John Soukup joins CSS in new role of Development Officer

Following more than a decade of working in the development and financial services industry, John Soukup of Lincoln is now the Development Officer for Catholic Social Services (CSS) of Southern Nebraska. Soukup will pursue and manage aspects of donor prospecting, cultivation, and stewardship in accordance with the mission of CSS.



"I have been blessed to have opportunities in my professional career to serve the Catholic Church in a variety of ways. I pray that experience will contribute to the important work of Catholic Social Services," said Soukup, who most recently worked as a field agent for Knights of Columbus Insurance for nearly nine years. Prior to that, he was Station Director for Spirit Catholic Radio in Lincoln. "When you trust God and His will for your life, anything can happen. I am honored and humbled to follow His gentle tug in this direction."