



PATRON

Hope in the Good Life

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Meeting growing needs *Two new programs in need of volunteers to reach out to more of those we serve*

Driven by our mission of Performing the Works of Mercy in response to the call of God, our Lincoln Social Services program has recently launched two new programs to reach out to more of those in need in our community.

Random Works of Mercy. In response to some recent requests from clients, this program seeks to shelter the homeless and care for the poor in a more personal way. The *Random Works of Mercy* program organizes volunteers to go out into the community as a group and perform minor living repairs, cleanup, and/or improvements for those in need. To request help with projects such as lawn cleanup, painting, or similar work, please fill out our client application at www.cssisus.org/RWoMclientapp.

Sunday Food Truck. Until a few weeks ago, a free Sunday evening meal was hard to come by in Lincoln. Responding to the need, we at Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska have begun bringing in a local food truck to

serve meals on Sundays from 4-6pm. Those in need of a free meal can either walk or drive to our lot at 23rd & O Street to get a meal to-go. Volunteers have even been walking meals to homeless individuals on the nearby trails and delivering them to those downtown.

The eventual goal of the program is to build community by inviting the public and local parishes to come eat a meal with those less fortunate.

We have seen numerous times how connecting people drives the best change in people's lives, and often those who came to give, unexpectedly received abundantly. The success of

these new programs depends on having enough dedicated volunteers. If you would like to use your skills, share your time, or organize a group event to serve those in need, please fill out a volunteer application online by visiting www.cssisus.org and clicking on the green "volunteer" button or contact Jeremy Sousek, our Lincoln volunteer coordinator, at jsousek@cssisus.org or 402.327.6245.



Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

-Collect for Mass During the Time of a Pandemic

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Hope in the Good Life

Plenty of reasons to smile

Fr. Justin Fulton
Executive Director

***“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”
-Mother Teresa of Calcutta***

Over the last few months we have experienced a lot of things that can leave a scowl on our faces. However, as Christians we are called to live with bold hope and a knowledge that Christ’s Light shines in the darkness.

We at Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska have lots of reasons to smile and be happy. In the midst of the pandemic, we continue to remain close to Christ in the poor. And since one can find Christ in the poor we remain joyful as our clients share their smiles with us, in spite of the trials they encounter.

By God’s grace and our Guardian Angels’ protection, none of our 80+ associates statewide have been sickened as a result of this pandemic. Yet, since day one we have been on the front lines helping feed the hungry, sheltering the abused, giving monetary aid to those who need it, and counseling those who are stricken with anxiety and depression. Our associates and volunteers are front line advocates and we are proud of them. We are thankful to God for their presence.

Our work attempts to spread Christ’s love everywhere

we go. And we attempt to leave those we encounter just a little happier than they were when they first came to us.

I want to share a note we received from a client who we encountered during the pandemic:

Hello Marilu,

I want to thank you whole-heartedly for everything that you have done to assist me in my time of need. When I originally spoke with my landlord about an extension of the rent I was rejected, but when I explained to him that your organization was willing to help me, he had a change of heart. I'm so grateful for that. And being as grateful as I am, I just know that there is someone out there who needs your assistance more than I do in this particular moment. I am happy to inform you that I got the job that I applied for and



once I get a paycheck or two I should be back on the path to success. I want to thank you and your organization for being there for the community during this momentous time of collective crises [sic]. It is not easy to be the one who needs to ask for help and the way you treat your clients with respect and without judgement means a lot to someone who has exhausted all other options before turning to charities like yours. Continue to inspire

us through your generosity and have a wonderful day!

Thanks again!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of CSS. Please consider making a donation to us so that we may continue to help those who need a little boost. Working together we will continue to bring Hope in the Good Life!! God bless and keep you.

Cheers,
Fr. Fulton

\$5,000 GIVEAWAY!

Sponsored by



**PLUM CREEK
• WAGYU •**

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 10/24/2020. Tickets can also be purchased at CSS Gift & Thrift Stores in Lincoln and Hastings. The winner will be drawn on Sunday, October 25, 2020. See www.csssus.org/2020raffle 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, October 24, 2020** 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.csssus.org/2020raffle for complete set of rules.

You can make a difference each month

Bringing Hope in the Good Life takes a concerted effort from our staff, volunteers and benefactors. In fact, our operating budget is 5.5 million dollars per year- or approximately \$16,000 per day in services and salary to provide our services to those in need across southern Nebraska. We could not accomplish our mission without the thousands of hours of service given by our dedicated volunteers or the generosity of those who support us monetarily. We can't thank you all enough!

Making it easy to help. If you are in a position to help us each month, we can make it convenient for you. Automatic bank transfers via our monthly giving program are an easy way to donate monthly to Catholic Social Services so that we can continue to provide Hope in the Good Life to those most vulnerable in southern Nebraska. Benefits include:

- Automatic deductions
- Easy to change or cancel
- No need to call and update expired or compromised credit cards

Payments will be deducted from your checking or savings account each month, and you will receive a summary monthly payment statement from CSS at the end of the year for tax purposes. You can have your monthly gift

deducted from your checking or savings account on the 5th or 15th of every month until you notify us to stop. The amount and date of your automatic gift will appear on your bank statement. Here are some examples of how your monthly gift can help us serve our neighbors throughout the year:

\$10/month helps provide six holiday baskets which will feed six families. Clients are offered a choice of turkey, ham, chicken, or beef with stuffing, potatoes, carrots, yams, green beans, corn, cream soups, canned pumpkin, cranberry jelly, cake or brownie mix and a \$10 gift card (valued at \$120).

\$50/month could assist 3 clients with car repairs or a household or furniture voucher.

\$100/month could assist 10 clients with a portion of their rent or utility bill.

\$250/month may sponsor a family at St. Gianna's for 2 1/2 months.



To fill out a form to start monthly deductions to CSS please go to: www.csssisus.org, click on the donate button, and scroll to the bottom of the form. If you have any questions before beginning your monthly support of CSS, contact Michelle Birkel at 402.327.6235. Thank you!

24TH CSS MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC & AUCTION A SUCCESS



Held in memory of Elmer Wessel, this year's CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction was the most successful in the 24 year history of the event. The tourney took place on August 7th at Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln with 36 teams playing in the morning flight, and 36 teams playing in the afternoon flight. Here are the results:

<u>Morning First Flight</u>	<u>Morning Second Flight</u>	<u>Morning Third Flight</u>	<u>Afternoon First Flight</u>	<u>Afternoon Second Flight</u>	<u>Afternoon Third Flight</u>
58-Midwest Tile Marble & Granite	65-Team Johnson 65-HDR, Inc.	70-Allo 70-Cline Williams	54-Nebraska Dermatology	64-St. Patrick, McCook	68-St. Joseph, Auburn
58-Team Kasl	65-Seward County Sinners	71-Action Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning	55-Carpet Land 56-Red Door Realty/ Zach McDermott	64-Elmer's Hood 64-Friends of Elmer	68-Cheever Construction 68-Irish Brigade

“New American Encounter”: Adopt-a-Family has a new name

While the Spring of 2020 will remain widely known as the period of lockdown, for the Refugee Resettlement Department at CSS it was a season marked by widening horizons and extended outreach. CSS is excited to have launched a new set of initiatives that seek to foster meaningful and life-giving encounters between Nebraskans and their new American neighbors. Among these initiatives has been “Adopt-a-Family” which, as we are excited to announce, has continued its mission under a new heading: “New American Encounter.” This volunteer opportunity pairs Lincoln locals with refugee individuals, couples, and families, with the aim of facilitating an exchange of conversations, ideas, and new friendships.

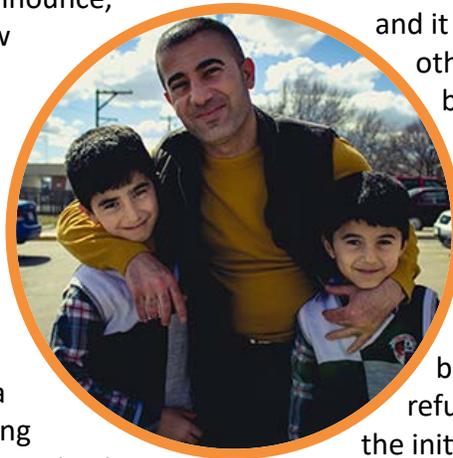
Responding to the Call of Catholic Locals

“New American Encounter” came as a response to a deepened interest among Lincoln parishioners to become more involved with the refugee community, as had become clear from CSS’s encounter with FIAT (Faith In Action Team), an outreach-focused volunteer group from St. Joseph’s parish. The “New American Encounter” initiative, now in full swing, was kicked off by two informational sessions this summer, one held in-person and the other over Zoom, and engaged over 50 households -- from individuals, to couples, to families large and small. We have been so humbled by the outpouring of interest, compassion, and

commitment throughout the Lincoln community, and wish to extend our most sincere gratitude to all who have opened their hearts and homes to our new neighbors from among the refugee community!

Mission of Facilitating Encounter with New Americans

For anyone who has come to know or work with refugees, we know they are among the strongest witnesses to hope, self-sacrifice and resilience, and it is for that reason, among so many others, that Lincoln locals can so truly benefit from this exchange. Throughout this new encounter, we hope that the refugee community might also benefit from gaining a personal, reliable, local contact who knows the ins and outs of life here in Lincoln, and who can therefore become a great resource for the refugee community’s social mobility. With the initiative’s goal of facilitating mutually-enriching relationships, CSS’s deepened emphasis on “encounter” in its overall mission organically came into view. The notion of “encounter”, central to our call as Catholics to encounter Christ through our love of neighbor, now stands as the pillar and heading of this volunteer initiative. We are honored to be introducing “New American Encounter” and warmly welcome you to consider joining its mission! For more information, contact Megan Meagher, Refugee Resettlement Director, at mmeagher@cssisus.org or 402.327.6231.



A LONG HISTORY OF SERVING REFUGEES

1948

Catholic Social Services begins its Resettlement Program to serve families displaced by WWII

1960s & 70s

Resettlement expands in response to Cuban Crisis and Vietnam War

Today

Resettlement of refugees predominantly from Burma/Myanmar & Iraq



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(S.A.G.)

Catholic Social Services- Hastings

Bountiful Harvest event to take on a new look

This year's fundraiser is online from October 1st-25th

Nearly 30 years ago, Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska began serving central and southwestern Nebraska from a fixed location in Hastings. Last year, our Hastings office helped provide:

- **44,928 sack lunches**
- **229 tons of food** to a 16-county area through our mobile food pantry
- **A safe and secure home** for women and children escaping from domestic violence in our St. Gianna Homes program

To support these efforts, we have held our Bountiful Harvest banquet each fall at the Hastings City Auditorium. In light of social distancing efforts for the foreseeable future, our Bountiful Harvest Celebration will be held in a different light this year. We will not have our celebration dinner in September. We will be holding an online auction fundraiser from October 1st through the 25th in order to raise funds to continue to help the needy and vulnerable of the Hastings area at

www.qtego.net/qlink/csshastings. Please support our work by bidding on some awesome gifts, trips, packages, and items such as a 1998 Toyota Camry that has just over 40,000 miles!



You can bid on this 1998 Toyota Camry that has just over 40,000 miles!

The price of one Bountiful Harvest Celebration dinner last year was \$50. With no banquet this year, your donation of \$50 will go to feed someone for a month. Will you donate the cost of your Bountiful Harvest meal, \$50, to feed your fellow Nebraskans this year? If you typically attend with a spouse or friend, consider donating for them as well.

You can donate online at www.cssisus.org/BH2020. Your help is vital to ensure we can continue to help the hungry, abused, and marginalized of the community. The poor, hungry, and abused of the area need your help more than ever. Your funds will go directly to help your fellow Nebraskans in need in the area.