



# PATRON

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Prayer for Rain

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, grant us sufficient rain, so that, being supplied with what sustains us in this present life, we may seek more confidently what sustains us for eternity. 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.

-Catholic Rural Life



## Filling the summer food void

### The Walk to End Hunger culminates August 6<sup>th</sup>

Two years ago, Mike Hosek, in collaboration with BetterLife, spearheaded the first Walk to End Hunger to benefit the food market at Catholic Social Services (CSS). For the first two years, the event was held at Pius X High School's stadium on the first Sunday in August. The goal was to raise as much food and monetary donations on that day as possible. Both years were very successful in raising thousands of pounds and dollars for the CSS Food Market. However, a change has been made for this year's event to better meet the needs of our neighbors served through the CSS Food Market.



Unfortunately, food insecurity is a year-round issue. Having fewer donations in the summer makes meeting a growing demand even more challenging.

To combat this annual drop in donations, the 2023 Walk to End Hunger will take place over the entire summer, culminating with a wrap-up celebration on August 6th, at Pius X High School. Each Lincoln parish will hold a food drive over the summer. CSS will provide a list of the food market's most needed items. The list will be stapled onto collection bags and handed out at each parish the weekend before the drive starts. The bag can be filled with needed items and returned to the parish on the collection weekend. To add a little fun, there's a friendly competition between the parishes to collect the most

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**27th Annual CSS Golf Tourney & Auction set for Aug. 4th**



# Food Recovery on the move

**Katie Patrick**  
Executive Director

Bright and early on a Wednesday morning, I found myself ready for another day at work. However, instead of being at Catholic Social Services' office in Lincoln, I found myself in the passenger seat of our CSS box truck in the parking lot of our Hastings office with our food recovery and furniture delivery driver, Bruce. We were set for a full day of delivering pallets of frozen meat and nonperishable food to our food recovery partners across western Nebraska. I was excited!!

Before we left Hastings, Judy, our Food Recovery Coordinator, gave me the list of stops with contact phone numbers. Our first stop was Curtis, Nebraska, in Frontier County. The volunteer I texted, a K-12 special education teacher at Maywood Public Schools, couldn't have been friendlier. We set the food outside their town pantry for her husband to pick up later. Their pantry is open twice per month and provides nonperishable food and frozen meat that is donated by the local community and CSS. We quickly unloaded the boxes before hopping back in the truck heading toward Culbertson in Hitchcock County.



*Katie Patrick (left) and Arapahoe Food Pantry volunteers*

When we pulled up to the food pantry, JoLyn came out to greet us. She works next door as the County Clerk. She gave me a tour of their pantry and we were able to visit for a while. I learned that most of their clients are elderly or part of large families who live in Culbertson or surrounding towns. The loss of the mobile food pantry during COVID has negatively impacted many people who relied on it. Now, they spend time and money driving to Culbertson for food.

I've seen many cases where families have to choose between filling their cars with gas to go get food, or buying food at the local mini mart or gas station. The elderly often lack transportation and mobility all together. Additionally, living on a fixed income like social security can be incredibly stressful and limiting. You're often making difficult decisions on what bills you can and cannot pay each month. Medication vs. Food. This happens more than you think. Unexpected emergencies such as a broken down car, a burst water pipe, illness or a death in the family, can also dramatically change a household's financial situation. Poverty is a complicated issue, but feeding the hungry isn't. At our next stop in Arapahoe, I saw nine volunteers show up within minutes of our arrival ready to unload and stock food at their food pantry. Talk about teamwork!

This route also includes Oxford, Nebraska in Furnas and Harlan Counties, but their pantry is currently undergoing a relocation and renovation so while we didn't deliver any food we were able to collect 42 bags of donated clothing and a couple of much needed bed frames from the local thrift store.



*JoLyn Hare helps coordinate the Hitchcock County food pantry*

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Hope in the Good Life

## To know, love and serve

Alexis Brouillette

St. Gianna Program Crisis Response & Residential Care Coordinator

Earlier this summer, I was blessed to work with ten young missionaries from Christ in the City who were hosted by Catholic Social Services. Four “Year of Service” missionaries who are serving in Denver were here, along with six young adults who are either starting college, seminary, or a career. They gave up three weeks of their summer to spend time with those experiencing poverty and homelessness. Christ in the City’s mission is to know, love, and serve the poor and to befriend the homeless. The days of the missionaries here in Lincoln were similar to a year of service in Denver. Every day consisted of Morning Prayer, an hour of personal prayer, Mass, community meals, street walks, and lots of formation. The summer mission ended with a silent retreat where they were able to reflect on their time serving the poor, living in community, and what their “Calcutta” is in their everyday life. Over the course of the summer, they were invited to spend time with generous donors and hosts, where they shared meals, played games, met some cows, and shared their stories about where they came from and how their time in Nebraska has been.

As for the actual mission, they split into three teams so they could go to different locations in Lincoln to

encounter the homeless. One group went to the People’s City Mission, another went to Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, and the last group walked O Street and the downtown area.

I had the opportunity to join the missionaries on many occasions. One of my favorite experiences was when I joined them on a street walk. I had heard about this group of friends they had met on the street. It’s a group of five guys that like to hang out together. One of them, Cody, had just gotten out of jail a few days before the missionaries had met him. They had developed a friendship with him over this time through sharing stories about his life, singing songs together, and just being present to him. Cody really likes music, as do the missionaries. Some of the missionaries had even brought musical instruments to Lincoln but they did not have a guitar. They had asked me if I had a guitar or if I knew of a place they could get one. Unfortunately, I am not very musically talented so I do not have a guitar. They told Cody how they wanted a guitar, so he went to the library with them to check one out with his library card. On the street walk I went on with the missionaries, we brought the guitar and just sat with Cody, playing music and singing. It brought so much joy to him and to the missionaries to share their love of music with each other. They even taught me a few chords! Cody sang us songs and taught us a new way to play guitar. These moments brought many smiles, tears, and joy to those around us. He was able to share a part of himself with the missionaries.



## A great way to double the good you do for CSS

John Soukup, Development Officer

By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even reach a higher tax bracket. Rolling over part of your IRA’s “required minimum distribution,” or “RMD” to a charity like Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska can help reduce your tax bill while supporting our many programs.

An IRA charitable rollover gift can benefit both you and bring more Hope in the Good Life! Contact your IRA administrator to get started with your gift. While you will not receive an income tax deduction, you will not pay taxes on any distributions paid to CSS. Please also inform us of your plans so that we use your gift for areas of programming most important to you. To learn more, contact me at [jsoukup@csshope.org](mailto:jsoukup@csshope.org). God bless!



# God works through us

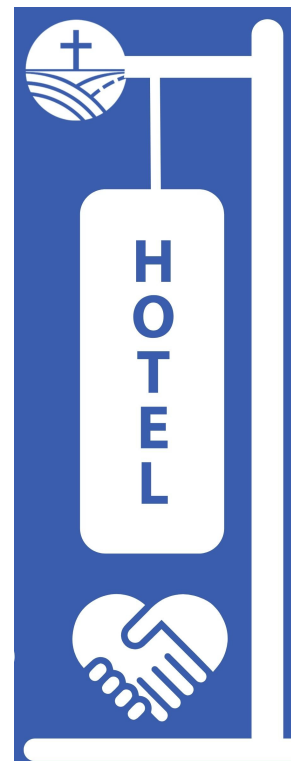
**Hope Weninger**  
**Family Support Services Specialist**

Tonya P has advanced stage 4 T-Cell Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Parkinson's disease. She had tests and doctor appointments scheduled for a recent 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 Emergency Services call line. She was understandably very upset. 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 I reached out to other agencies that I knew of and also received 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 is going to sleep should not add to the weight on her shoulders.



## CSS Memorial Golf Classic & Auction tees up on August 4<sup>th</sup>

On Friday, August 4th, Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln will host the 27th annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction. This year's event will be held in memory of Jose Quintero. A long-time volunteer for CSS, Jose passed away in June of 2021.

There are a number of ways to participate in this important fundraising event- even if you aren't a golfer:

**Golfers.** Includes cart, lunch and invitation to the cookout for golfers and a guest. **Team space is limited.**

**Hole sponsor.** This sponsorship allows your name, company name or parish organization to appear at a tee-box during the tournament.

**Priest Sponsor.** This underwrites the cost for a priest to play in the tournament.

**Memorial Gift.** A memorial gift may be made to Catholic Social Services in honor of a loved one.

**Auction Gift.** You may donate an item or service to be offered on the silent or live auction.

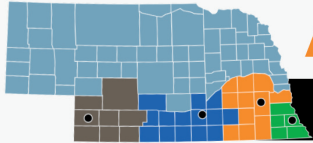
**Not a golfer? You can still participate in the silent auction!** Again this year, all bidding will take place via your smart phone. Visit [csshope.org](http://csshope.org) to see how you can participate in the fun and bidding!

To register for the tourney, visit [csshope.org/golf2023](http://csshope.org/golf2023) or call 402-430-5626 for more information.



Do you have an antique or collectible item that is collecting dust? Maybe a nice vehicle you no longer need? If you or your business have an item or service for the silent auction, drop us a note in the enclosed envelope, call (402) 430-5626, or e-mail the information to [hello@csshope.org](mailto:hello@csshope.org).





**ACROSS 24,000 SQUARE MILES  
OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA**

## LINCOLN REGION

**184**

Clients helped by our  
Refugee Resettlement  
Services team



## HASTINGS REGION

**103,914**

Total pounds of  
food distributed  
including our  
Food Recovery  
program



## AUBURN REGION

**1,524**

Encounters at  
St. Francis Gift  
& Thrift Store

*(cash register transactions)*



## IMPERIAL REGION

### IMMEDIATE SUPPLIES

For a family with 2 small  
children (and 1 on the way)  
whose house burned down



## IMPACT HIGHLIGHT FOR THIS QUARTER:

### CSS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE EXPANDS INTO 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, we either **regift** it to a family in need or **resell** it in one of our 4 gift & thrift stores or now through online sales. 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 sell or regift your item, we **recycle** it so it can be repurposed and help the environment. **Learn more about how we're sustaining Hope in the Good Life online at [csshope.org/onlinesales](https://csshope.org/onlinesales).**



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**HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE**



**[csshope.org](https://csshope.org)**

Find all of our CSS social media  
channels at [csshope.org/connect](https://csshope.org/connect)





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(S.A.G.)

**The Patron** **Summer 2023**

**Food Recovery on the move**

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CSS is just one agency, often the only agency that provides food for these smaller food pantries, the rest of the food on the shelves needs to come from people like you. These amazing volunteers can't do the work they do without the donations and participation from people like you. Our Hastings office needs more drivers, like Bruce, who would be willing to drive our food recovery routes. If you think you could help, please email John McDonald at [jmcdonald@csshope.org](mailto:jmcdonald@csshope.org) for more information.

There are many factors that may contribute to a household's need for food. For those who can afford it buying a little extra food that is preferably low sodium, low sugar, or whole wheat, at your grocery store and dropping it off at your local pantry is easy and it makes a big difference to someone who is hungry. Thank you in advance for helping us bring hope to rural Nebraska!

**Filling the summer food void**

*(Continued from front page)*

food. To give each parish equal footing, the total amount of food and cash collected by each drive will be divided by the total number of families in that parish.

If you are unable to participate in one of the Lincoln parish food drives, you can still help us reach our goal of 25,000 pounds of food or dollars combined for the CSS Food Market. The 2023 Walk to End Hunger Celebration on August 6th at Pius X High School's football stadium (60th & A Street, Lincoln) from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. It's easy to participate! Walk laps during the event to collect funds or bring food items or donate cash for CSS to purchase food. Thanks to corporate and individual sponsors, each lap walked will earn much-needed funds for the CSS Food Market in Lincoln. With a goal of 1,000 laps walked we will need everyone to come walk and support the food market! This will be a fun family event with food, games, and much more. To learn more about the Walk to End Hunger, visit [csshope.org](http://csshope.org) or scan this QR code. Thank you for helping us meet this vital need and nourish Hope in the Good Life!

