



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

June 2023



St. Fiacre/CSS Community Garden

A little land can make a big difference

Born in Ireland in the year 600, St. Fiacre became a hermit in Kilkenny. Longing for greater solitude in his prayer life, he left his homeland for France to live as a hermit. When St. Fiacre arrived in the town of Meaux, he met with St. Faro, the bishop of the city. Faro was receptive to Fiacre because as a child Faro's family had been devoted to St. Columbanus, another Irish monk who founded many monasteries in France. The bishop agreed to give Fiacre some of his own land in a forest on the banks of the Marne River with one condition-Fiacre could have whatever land he could plow in one day. Rather than using a strong team of horses and hitching them to the largest plow he could find, Fiacre cleared boulders and trees from

a modest parcel of earth using only the point of his staff. He used the cleared land to plant a garden, build a cell for himself, and an oratory in honor of the Blessed Virgin. Eventually he added a hospice for travelers which developed into the village of Saint-Fiacre. Many travelers came to him for advice, and many poor came to him for help.

With just a little bit of land, and a whole lot of faith and God's help, much good can be accomplished.

Located next to our St. Louise Gift & Thrift building lies a small piece of land that, with the help of staff, volunteers, donors and timely rains, will produce a great deal of good.

The CSS Lincoln Community Garden will
(Continued on back page)

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
IMPACT REPORT**
 QUARTER 1 ● JANUARY
 2023 ● FEBRUARY
 ● MARCH

LINCOLN
 Clients helped by our
 Refugee Resettlement
 Services team:
184

HASTINGS
 Total lbs of food
 distributed, including
 Food Recovery
 program:
103,914

AUBURN
 Total number of
 St. Francis Gift &
 Thrift Encounters
 (cash register
 transactions):
1,524

IMPERIAL
 IMMEDIATE SUPPLIES
 for a family with two
 young children (and
 one on the way) whose
 house burned down.

You'll find our complete
QTR 1 2023 IMPACT REPORT
 on our website: 
csshope.org



PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



#HopeintheGoodLife

A little land can make a big difference (continued)

grow fresh produce for our clients, provide a beautiful and beneficial “green space” in Lincoln’s Telegraph District, and offer businesses, organizations, and families unique opportunities to collaborate with us. It sits on our property at 2241 O St. in Lincoln, overlooking the Antelope Valley waterway and has already proved to be a fruitful source of community. Last fall, employees from Clark and Enersen and several members of the Lincoln chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians built our cedar garden beds. The folks from Clark and Enersen also donated and built a storage shed. This past March, students from Newman University in Wichita spent part of their spring break building the fence around the garden.

We have staff and dedicated volunteers, who have shoveled and filled all of our garden beds with 50/50

compost, and are maintaining the area around the beds. We’re also partnering with Community Crops and Nebraska Extension to acquire the plants and decide when and where they should be planted.

A lot of new connections have been cultivated with this new project. But we have not lost sight of the reason for the garden. As a CSS Food Market client said, “When I come for food, I am always so happy when I can take home fresh produce for my family. It makes a big difference in my life to be able to eat healthy and have a good diet.”

We’re eager for our clients and community to reap all of our garden’s bounty. Help us grow Hope in the Good Life by visiting csshope.org for our online donation and volunteer forms, or call our Community Engagement Coordinator, Rachel Tvrdy, at (402) 327.6245.

Refugee Resettlement Services

Recognizing the plight of the refugee

Defined as individuals who are forcibly displaced from their homes due to violence, conflict or persecution, refugees have unfortunately been in the headlines the past few years. It’s estimated that as of mid-2022, the refugee population has surged to 32.5 million.

Each June 20th, World Refugee Day is commemorated to draw attention to the plight of millions of refugees worldwide. As we approach this date, we plan to highlight our work in welcoming the stranger to southern Nebraska. One such story is that of Abdulrazzak Alkoutaini, a refugee from Syria who is now a Refugee Case Manager here at CSS. A pharmacy student forced to flee Syria, Abdul tells his story on our latest Hope in the Good Life podcast, hosted by CSS Development Officer John Soukup. To hear the podcast, just scan the QR code or visit csshope.org/podcast.

