



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

July 2023

St. Kateri Tekakwitha/CSS Sustainability Initiative

Stewards of His Creation

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American to be recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church. She was born in a Mohawk village in 1656. Her mother was an Algonquin and her father was a Mohawk chief. At age 19, Kateri Tekakwitha converted to Catholicism, taking a vow of chastity and pledging to marry only Jesus Christ. Her decision was very unpopular with her community, and they accused her of sorcery. To avoid persecution, she traveled to a Christian native community south of Montreal.

As a Native American, Kateri embodied her culture's God-given call to be good stewards of Creation. The Iroquois tribes had a deep connection with the land, understanding the importance of managing resources carefully. Stanislaus Brzana, bishop of Ogdensburg said St. Kateri, "was a child of nature. Her sainthood will raise the minds and hearts of those who love nature and work in ecol-

ogy." The Church has a long history of reminding of the importance of taking care of God's creation. St. John Paul II stated, "The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship." Recently, Catholic

Social Services of Southern Nebraska (CSS) has embarked on an agency-wide sustainability initiative.

Online sales of donated items is one way 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 to one of our four thrift stores or e-commerce, we either regift it to a family in need or resell it. All funds from resold



Our new **SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE** needs your **TIME & TALENT** to help CSS process donated **TREASURE!**

We have many different opportunities for you to use your unique talents to sustain **HOPE IN THE GOOD LIFE.**

Begin your journey at

[CSSHOPE.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://csshope.org/volunteer)





PO Box 30425
Lincoln NE 68503-0425



Stewards of His Creation (continued)

items are then used to assist clients and families needing financial assistance for rent, utilities, medical bills, or gas. If we cannot resell or regift your item, we recycle it so it can be repurposed and help the environment. Learn more at csshope.org/onlinesales.

Our sorted, clean, and organized Gift & Thrift stores in Lincoln, Hastings, Auburn, and Imperial are another way CSS brings Hope in the Good Life while elevating the dignity of the person. Individuals who cannot afford items in our stores can apply to receive items for free through our Family Support programs in each of our outreach offices. The sales of store goods and recycled items pay for our staff and overhead costs. All of the merchandise in our stores has been donated by our generous supporters across Southern Nebraska. Learn more at csshope.org/thriftstores.

Join us for the 3rd Annual Walk to End Hunger

Sunday, Aug. 6th 5PM-8PM • Pius X High School stadium • 60th & A St. Lincoln



Come take part in the culmination of the 3rd annual Walk to End Hunger- it's easy to participate! Walk laps during the event to collect funds, 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 is a fun family event with food, games, and much more. To learn about the Walk to End Hunger, visit csshope.org or **scan this QR code at the right**. Thank you for helping us meet this vital need and nourish Hope in the Good Life!

