



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

October 2021

St. Wolfgang/Don Foote

Crafting hope in Hastings

Though October 31st is best known as the date for Halloween, it is also the feast day of one of the most important saints of the tenth century, St. Wolfgang.

Born into royalty in Swabia, Germany in 924, St. Wolfgang studied at the famous Benedictine Abbey of Reichenau before taking up studies in Würzburg. He was ordained in 968 by St. Ulrich, who sent him with a party of monks to preach to the Magyars of Hungary. In 972, Emperor Otto II appointed Wolfgang Bishop of Regensburg.



Wolfgang quickly built a reputation throughout the region as a reformer of monasteries and convents. But above all, St. Wolfgang became known for his love of the poor.

According to legend, St. Wolfgang dreamt that God told him to build a church. When he awoke, he began looking for a site to build the church on top of a mountain. He threw his axe in the air, telling God that he will build the church wherever the axe lands. The axe fell down the mountain, landing in a valley. It was here, according to legend, that St. Wolfgang tricked the devil into helping him build the church, promising him the first soul that came through the church doors. The devil agreed, and after the construction was completed, a wolf was the first to cross its threshold, thus tricking the devil.

Like St. Joseph, St. Wolfgang is a patron saint of carpenters.

“Don is our St. Joseph.” That’s how

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**In partnership
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17,000
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from January
through August
this year**

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Crafting hope in Hastings (continued)

Long-time Hastings Catholic Social Services team member Tom Schik describes Don Foote. In the workshop he set up in the basement of St. Joseph Gift & Thrift, Don repairs donated items. For the past few years, he has focused on repairing donated furniture and antiques.

A love of carpentry runs deep in Don's roots. He comes from three generations of commercial/personal contract wood or construction workers, including his great-grandfather (who was a cabinetmaker and Civil War vet). Even his uncle, Msgr. Thomas Kealy (who at one time served as Vicar General of the Diocese of Lincoln) had a construction background.

Since Don's wife Kathy passed away three years ago, he's spent even more time volunteering for CSS in Hastings and is really enjoying it. "There's always so much going on there!" he says. Don humbly admits he doesn't know if CSS has benefited from him being there, but adds, "I've definitely benefited from it."

Thank you Don, and all of our Hastings volunteers, for crafting Hope in the Good Life in the Hastings area.



Please join us for our Bountiful Harvest Celebration, a benefit for the work in Hastings! This year's celebration is again a virtual event. Help bring Hope in the Good Life to those we serve in and around the 16-county greater Hastings area by visiting csshope.org/bh2021. You may make a donation online or take part in our Bountiful Harvest online auction. You'll find a great selection of items including a guided waterfowl hunt, a beautiful quilt, Kansas City Chiefs tickets and more! Bidding ends November 14th.

Volunteer, donate or connect with us! Visit www.csshope.org