LINCOLN SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT

April - June 2021

Report by:
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& CSS Marketing & Development Team

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Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Karen celebrating ten years of service to St. Gianna Women’s Homes.
Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska in Lincoln is comprised of five key programs with each program encompassing multiple projects and services. Our five programs include:

- **Emergency Services**: Cash assistance, employment services, furniture delivery, and walk in services such as clothing, diapers, etc.
- **Food Market & Meal Services**: Client choice food market, daily breakfast and lunch meals, and the Catholic School Food Market Program
- **Immigration Legal Services**: Assisting clients with immigration documents, and other forms of identification
- **Refugee Resettlement & Employment Services**: Welcoming new arrivals and secondary migrants, refugee employment services, New American Encounter, and Career Ladder
- **St. Gianna Women’s Homes**: Housing for survivors of domestic violence, counseling referrals, and community-based learning opportunities for residents

Special Projects include: Random Works of Mercy, onsite English and Citizenship Classes, holiday programs, et al.

When Catholic Social Services receives an excess of nonperishable goods, adult diapers, or fresh fruit and vegetables, Colleen helps redistribute the items to any one of the many nursing homes and low-income senior centers she serves across southern Nebraska such as Firth, Beatrice, Seward, Nebraska City, and Crete. We are grateful for her assistance in helping us make sure that every donation reaches those in need.
EMERGENCY SERVICES

3 households received a donated vehicle
66 households received gas vouchers
160 households received a gift card to St. Louise Gift & Thrift
1,193 households received diapers
1,096 individuals received a food pantry

Carmen has cancer and wasn’t able to keep working as a nurse assistant due to COVID-19. She hasn’t been working, not only because she is at high risk, but because she has been experiencing memory problems due to her cancer and is not capable of administering medications to her patients. She applied for SSDI but did not qualify because her doctor said that her cancer was going to go away ‘in a month’. It has passed 7 months already, she is still really sick, and now she has been told that she can re-apply in August. She’s also applied for general assistance but has not heard back from them.

Carmen has no family support in the USA so her mom had to come from Mexico to take care of her while she finishes her treatment. So, she has already spent all her savings and stimulus money and she has been applying every month to different agencies for help until she can reapply for SSDI or until she can receive some type of benefits. Fortunately, CSS was able to assist Carmen with one of her utility bills and with 2 months of rent. She was also encouraged to apply for the ERA funds. Carmen was very thankful for the assistance she received and was crying and couldn’t fully express how blessed she felt.

(CSS Emergency Services Client)
FOOD MARKET & MEAL SERVICES

1,320 breakfast burritos
catered by Chez SoDo

2,753 sack lunches
prepared by
Knights of Columbus
& CSS volunteers

21 pounds of food
grown in our new greenhouse!!

We had an average of 49 active volunteers each month, who contributed a total of 1,390 hours of service this quarter!

One day, a man who regularly brings in donations came by during our food pantry pick up time. After dropping off a donation of vegetables, he noticed that our volunteer, Andy, was helping a client. This particular client did not have any transportation and was going to have to carry all his food to the bus stop. The client was trying to decide what food to keep and what food to leave behind. The donor then offered to give the client a ride. It was a very sweet moment, and so encouraging to see a donor be more involved. The client was so thankful!

75,495 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED TO CSS FROM JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021
IMMIGRATION

Upcoming partnerships include
Aging Partners &
The Bridge Behavioral Health

Elizabeth and Drew are excited to receive good news in the mail... her normal Legal Permanent Resident card! Since May 2020, we’ve helped 331 individuals in our Immigration Legal Services Department. Your support of CSS during Give to Lincoln provides crucial services, builds #HopeintheGoodLife, and brings a brighter tomorrow for our neighbors in Lincoln & Lancaster County. Thanks for your partnership and support of our work!

Forms include: Adjustment of Status (Green Card) (Form I-485), Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (green card) (I-90), U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship (Form N-400), Application for Certificate of Citizenship (N-600), Employment Authorization Document (Form I-765), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (Form I-812D), Application for Fee Waiver (I-912)

Total number of clients, includes screening, intake and if eligible form submission
Total number of applications submitted to USCIS on behalf of clients
One exciting update that we have been working on this quarter is the development of a **Community & Cultural Orientation** booklet for newcomers.

It covers many topics including opening checking and savings accounts, how to use public transportation, where to buy groceries, and how to build credit.

Our case managers meet regularly with every refugee family that arrives, visiting a couple times per week for the first three months after their arrival, and sometimes longer if we are assisting them with finding employment. Comprehensive lessons and revisits of those lessons are critical to the successful integration of newcomers. To make sure that our book is well understood and accessible to those we serve, we plan to have it translated into several languages, including: Arabic, Farsi, French, Karen, Kurdish, and more. See a few sample pages below!
ST. GIANNA WOMEN’S HOMES

- 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY -

ST. GIANNA WOMEN’S HOMES’ IMPACT

- 189 Households served
- 462 Persons served
- 381.9 DAYS Avg. length of stay
- 193 Adults
- 269 Children
- 57% Children under age 5
- 31.7 YEARS Avg. age of head of household at entry
- 20% Heads of households pregnant at entry

Children who witness or experience domestic violence in the home are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems. St. Gianna’s offers families the love, support, and safe environment that all children deserve.

At least 40% of clients enter St. Gianna’s with no income.

Mental health problems like PTSD, anxiety, and depression are common challenges faced by residents at St. Gianna’s. To help cope with their trauma, many survivors turn to alcohol or drugs for relief. Of the clients who abandoned the program, 35% misused or abused substances. This is why increasing access to mental health services in the community is critical.

“St. Gianna’s has really impacted my life, in a way that has made me realize how strong I really can be, not only for myself, but for my kids as well. I realize I am not alone, that there is help and a better future!”