



PATRON

Summer 2020

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 4:6-7

Offering a hand up

CSS offering assistance to those affected by COVID-19

So many of our neighbors are reeling from the impact of COVID-19, many of whom would never have imagined needing a hand up. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we recently released \$200,000 to help the poor and vulnerable in southern Nebraska, specifically to help those impacted by the pandemic needing help with rent, utilities, food and cash assistance.

"Jesus Christ Himself was born into poverty without a home, resources, or adequate shelter," said CSS Executive Director Rev. Justin Fulton. "We know people need help staying in their apartments, keeping their electricity on, and keeping food on the table. We are honored to help out with this \$200,000 and hopeful the community might consider joining us to help out with more."

Applicants near our four outreach offices may call at the below numbers to begin the application and screening process

specifically for emergency cash assistance. CSS services all counties south of the Platte River in Nebraska through offices in Lincoln, Hastings, Imperial, and Auburn.

Lincoln

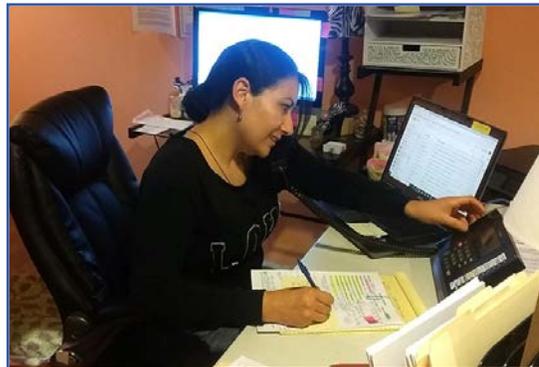
- Takes calls every Monday at 9am at (402) 327-6211.

Hastings

- Call the front office (402) 463-2112 Monday through Friday during business hours.

Imperial

- Call (402) 327-6299 Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (mountain time) to request emergency



cash assistance.

Auburn

- Call (402) 327-6242 - Monday 9:30am-4pm, Tuesday 1pm-4pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9am-4pm, Friday 9am-noon to request emergency cash assistance.

Please continue to pray for those we serve as we strive to bring Hope in the Good Life.



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Thank you for sharing His love

Fr. Justin Fulton
Executive Director

“If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door you will never find Him in the chalice.”
--St. John Chrysostom

What a whirlwind we have all been through. First off, THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. The toughest thing we will ever do on this earth is keep faith. We have seen a lot of suffering during this pandemic. From the economy, to unemployment, to hungry people, to being separated from loved ones, being separated from friends and neighbors, isolation, being separated from Mass, and even death---the Gospels are being lived out. Trials and sufferings, joys, triumphs, and the Resurrection. THANK YOU FOR KEEPING YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!!! WE ARE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!!!

Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska has been answering the call to help out the hungry, the poor, the neglected, the depressed, and the abused. The poor need us now more than ever and we have responded with elderly grocery delivery, over \$200,000 given in rent and utilities help, telehealth counseling statewide

for the depressed and anxious, diapers for children, personal items and toiletries for families, a continued safe place for mothers and children at St. Gianna Women’s Homes, and pre-packaged groceries for the needy.

When a pandemic or catastrophe hits, the demand for our services goes up.

It costs us \$15,500 per day in services and salary for Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska to provide Hope in the Good Life. **THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SAVE LIVES!! THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!!**

Please help us continue to provide food for the hungry, a tank of gas for someone who needs it, rent and utilities payments for someone who has lost a job, and help for someone who needs a hand-up---not just a handout.



You can donate at cssisus.org or with the included envelope. Consider making a recurring gift as the need continues to grow. Or if you would like information on how to make a planned gift and help for many generations give our

Director of Advancement Michelle Birkel a call at 402-327-6235 or email at mbirkel@cssisus.org.

The demand is great but Christ’s love is Infinitely greater. Thank you for sharing His love and your care with our neighbors here in southern Nebraska.

God bless and keep you all safe, joyful, and holy.

Cheers,
Fr. Fulton

Auction items needed for 24th Annual Memorial Golf Classic & Auction

On Friday, August 7th, Hillcrest Country Club in Lincoln will host the 24th Annual Catholic Social Services Memorial Golf Classic & Auction. This year’s event will be held in memory of Elmer Wessel. Last year’s event raised nearly \$112,000 for the programs of CSS. There are numerous ways to participate including teams, hole sponsorships and more. Visit cssisus.org/golf2020 to see all of the ways you can participate.

Do you have a collectible item or antique that is collecting dust? Maybe a nice car or boat that you no longer need? **One important way you can help with this event is by donating an item for our Silent Auction!** Maybe you have a business that can donate an item, service or experience. If you have an item or an idea for our silent auction, drop a note in the enclosed envelope or contact John McDermott at hello@cssisus.org or call (402) 430-5626. Thank you!



“She was more concerned with helping others” Margaret Weagel honors the mission of CSS with an estate gift

Aunt Margaret was always such a giving person. At all of our many family gatherings, she was always looking after everyone, making sure that each of us had a full plate and that everyone was taken care of before she took a break for herself. This was huge, as our family was large. Margaret was the oldest of ten children and did not have children of her own. She looked after everyone as if we were all her own.

George Inglis, Jr., wrote these words about his aunt, Margaret Weagel. Margaret, of Falls City, passed away on June 14, 2019 at the age of 98.

Kevin, another nephew, gives more insight into Margaret. “When my father became terminally ill, I spent five months at his house taking care of him,” Kevin recalls. “Margaret was very concerned about my father and would call the house frequently to check on him even though she knew I was there with him... A few weeks before my father passed away he needed additional assistance and was moved to a nursing home. Margaret arranged for the nursing home to set up a special room for us to have a final family meal with him. She invited all their siblings who traveled from Lincoln, Omaha and Council Bluffs to



Margaret (right) and her good friend Trudy

(continued on back)

Social Services- Lincoln

The power of community

Katie Patrick, Regional Director of Social Services

With all the social distancing recently in place in our city, it makes building new relationships challenging, but the Lord provides. When the F Street Neighborhood Church reached out to us in hopes of providing veterans with cleaning kits - and just hours later the Asian Community and Cultural Center reached out with the same request to help their elder refugee clients - we at CSS were blessed to be able to say YES! By the generosity of our donors, we were able to assemble 110 cleaning kits for distribution.

Our volunteer coordinator and several CSS volunteers worked together to pack five gallon buckets with all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, dish soap, laundry detergent, cleaning gloves, sponges, and a roll of paper towels. When the kits were ready to go, Pastor Jeff and members of the F Street Neighborhood Church came with a trailer to collect 70 kits that they would fill with cards of neighborly love and deliver to the independent units of the Veteran's hospital. They were overjoyed to receive the cleaning kits! The following morning, Mu, a Karen refugee who works at the Asian Community and Cultural Center, came to collect the remaining 40 cleaning kits that she would distribute later that day to elder Karen refugees from Burma.

With the remaining cleaning supplies that CSS purchased,

our refugee resettlement director packed twenty more kits to deliver to refugee families that CSS has welcomed and resettled from Burma, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Ukraine over the past year. Our director will deliver the cleaning kits this week along with twenty food boxes that we received as a donation from a group of medical students at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit our state, the UNMC students were motivated to engage with the community by creating a project focused on equity, food security and nutrition, and public health. Their project is called the MUNA Box project, which stands for Medical student United with Neighbors across America. Austin Gibson, a UNMC student and representative from MUNA, says that "As medical students and future healthcare providers, we see our future careers as more than just a job, but a calling and a devotion to the well-being of our communities. We hope that this project both helps those in need and draws closer the relationship between the medical community and those living in our state."



Catholic Social Services' Katie Patrick (left), Pastor Jeff and his helpers from the F Street Neighborhood Church load cleaning kits

All of this was done with the health and safety of our community in mind. People's needs don't cease during a pandemic. They grow. It is incredible that all this was done not only to help those most vulnerable during this time, but to do so in a way that ensures the safety of our volunteers, staff, and community. Serving those in need while making new connections and friendships along the way is faith in action. I'm really grateful to our community partners, donors, staff, and volunteers for making it happen. God is good!!



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#HopeintheGoodLife



(S.A.G.)

The Patron

Summer 2020

"She was more concerned with helping others" (continued) attend. And in her usual Margaret way, she insisted on paying for everything herself. Thanks to her initiative, they were all able to pay their last respects and all be together. Even though she had her own health issues, she was more concerned about helping others." Her selflessness and her dedication to her family and Catholic faith continued throughout her entire life. It was this selflessness and dedication which inspired Margaret to remember Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska in her estate plan.

Margaret knew many people in the county and quickly made close friends with many more. Her close friend Trudy Burenheide said, "Our shared love of the Catholic Faith was our common bond. She returned to the church on fire with a missionary zeal and love of Jesus Christ after several years of not practicing her faith."

"Margaret Weagel's faith was not a part of her life, it WAS her life," states her pastor, Rev. David Oldham. "She lived it in every aspect, even as she lost her eyesight and became less mobile. She was very generous and God bless her inspiring example to me and to all whom she met! I am proud to have known Margaret!"

"Margaret and I loved to spend time together," Trudy



states. "Discussing important decisions that she was concerned about, enjoying a meal together. When she was packing things up to move to the nursing home (often by herself as that was how she wanted it to be) I told her she was my role model, that I would like to be more like her. She quietly beamed and we both dropped some silent

tears. Every quality all of us have mentioned is what I admired about Margaret. The last book she read was ***Meditations on the Holy Spirit of God, Searching for the Beyond Within***. She hadn't yet finished it when she went to the hospital for the last time. I finished reading it to her while she was there. It was a book she was determined to finish. She highlighted this song on page 96:"

We are one in the Spirit

We are one in the Lord...

And they'll know we are Christians by our Love,

And they'll know we are Christians by our Love

Thank you Margaret for remembering Catholic Social Services. Your selflessness will continue to help those in southern Nebraska for years to come! To learn more about planned giving and the ***Legacy of Hope Society***, a new planned giving initiative, please contact Michelle Birkel, Director of Advancement, at mbirkel@cssisus.org or (402) 327-6235.