



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

## Hope in the Good Life

August 2021

St. Louis IX/Friends of the St. Joseph Foundation

## Building the Kingdom

Grandpa always has the best ideas.

Recently, one particular grandpa got an idea while designing and building a bed frame for his toddler grandson. "I started wondering how much of a need there was at Catholic Social Services for twin beds," he said. He approached CSS and learned that the need for beds was indeed great. He then designed a prototype, placed a twin mattress and box spring on it and turned it over to "quality control" - in other words, he slept on it to make sure it worked and was comfortable! Satisfied with the finished product, he enlisted grandma's help and together they set a goal of building 25 twin beds for the clients of CSS. They approached businesses for discounts on supplies,

lumber and mattresses. They then enlisted a small army of friends- dubbed the "Friends of the St. Joseph Foundation" - to build 25 twin beds for CSS on the Feast of the Assumption, Sunday, August 15th.

Armed with power drills, paint brushes and a love for the poor, the bed-building crew met their goal. In one day, they built 25 beds for those leaving behind homelessness; beds for men and women rebuilding their lives after being incarcerated; beds for refugee families arriving to build a new life.

The friends of the St. Joseph Foundation didn't just build beds, they helped build Hope in the Good Life.

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## #HopeintheGoodLife

### ***Building the Kingdom (continued)***

St. Louis IX was also a builder. During his reign as King of France from 1226 to 1270, Louis encouraged abbeys, churches and cathedrals to be built throughout his kingdom. The cathedrals of Amiens, Rheims and Beauvais were either built or began being built during his reign. Many of the wealthy barons of the day were so influenced by their King's love for architecture that they too built many religious buildings.

Louis had a deep devotion to serving the poor and sick of his kingdom with dignity. Along with many beautiful churches and cathedrals, the King built many hospitals and schools during his reign. St. Francis de Sales once wrote about King Louis's charity:

*"O my daughter, such servitude is more glorious than royalty! How touchingly St. Louis, one of the greatest of kings, fulfilled this duty; serving the poor in their own houses, and daily causing three to eat at his own table, often himself eating the remains of their food in his loving humility..."*

Thank you friends of the St. Joseph Foundation for your hard work, humble service and emulating St. Louis IX's desire to build a better life for those in need.



Volunteer, donate or connect with us! Visit [www.csshope.org](http://www.csshope.org)