



Ending homelessness in the Fox Valley

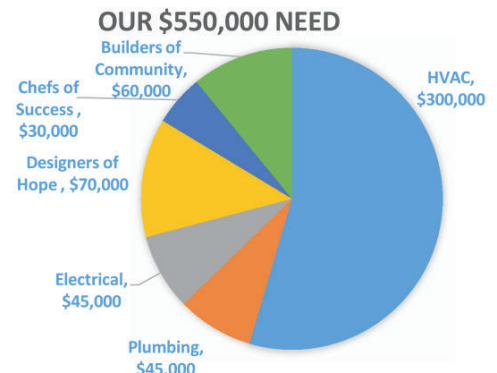
Campus of Change

Summer 2017

Thanks to you, our “Campus of Change” Campaign is nearing completion. **COTS is home to over 60 people every day.** One of our residents recently said, “If COTS didn’t exist, I have no clue where I’d be. It doesn’t bear thinking about.” For our residents, we are the alternative to life on the streets, crashing on a couch, or worse. We are the difference between not knowing where your next night will be spent and having a safe place to call your own, **a true home where you wake up in your own bed every day.**

Our “Campus of Change” Campaign supports our mission of addressing the root causes of homelessness. Our program focuses on the four core areas shown to be essential to people leaving homelessness behind for good:

- Wellness (including mental, physical, and dental health) (*see pages 2 & 3*)
- Education and employment (*see pages 2 & 3*)
- Permanent social connections (*see page 3*)
- Stable housing (*see page 2*)



“If COTS didn’t exist, I have no clue where I’d be. It doesn’t bear thinking about.”

Thanks to you, our staff is able to shift its focus from the day-to-day maintenance issues of a 60-year-old building to helping our residents move forward. Our residents come to us from many different walks of life, from histories of childhood trauma, addiction, chronic physical health issues, lack of access to educational services, and other debilitating circumstances. What they share is a desire to make a positive, lasting change in their lives. We invite you to visit us and see transformation in action. **Because of you**, our buildings remind our residents that they are valued and contributing members of our community.





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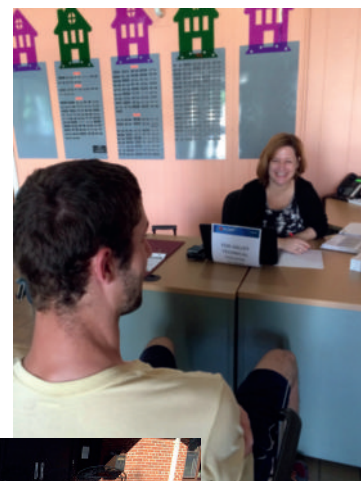


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Transformation in Action

Our “Campus of Change” Campaign takes our 60-year-old buildings and transforms them into a true home for our residents. Change is happening for our residents as well:

- **7 residents are enrolled in post secondary education classes.** Two recently received “Achievement Against the Odds” awards from Fox Valley Technical College along with making the Dean’s List.
- **69 of our residents have visited our on-site health clinic** so far this year! Our clinic, in collaboration with Partnership Community Health Center, is about to expand to offer behavioral health (see page 3)--further allowing us to address a root cause of homelessness.
- **A veteran recently moved out of COTS and into his own apartment.** While at COTS, he applied lessons learned from our living skills classes, paid down debt and built up savings. He remained employed, and is about to finish his engineering degree.
- Recently a resident **paid off 7 debts in the month of May!** A second resident, who moved into his own home in June, **paid off over \$17,000 in debt** during his time at COTS!



Bringing Healthcare Home 1 Year Anniversary

June held an anniversary of our on-site health clinic with Partnership Community Health Center (PCHC). In year 1, our clinic saw 171 patients and had over 530 appointments from COTS, Riverview Gardens, Ryan Community and the Warming Shelter. **For many of our residents, this is their first connection to primary care in decades.**

Our focus is always to address the root causes of homelessness. Working with PCHC allows us to directly address one of the most significant barriers for our residents: physical, mental, and dental health care.

This summer, thanks to funding from the The Basic Needs Giving Partnership*, **our clinic is expanding to offer behavioral health including AODA services on site at COTS.** Our residents are able to address their behavioral health needs in their own home.

** funded by the U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs within the Community Foundation from the annual U.S. Venture Open golf outing, with additional money from the J. J. Keller Foundation and other community partners*

“Thank you for the bright hope you bring to people.”



Clinic staff connect with residents at the Warming Shelter to let them know about our clinic services.

“A Positive Group of People”

Imagine graduating from high school, turning 18, and suddenly finding yourself without a home, with no family to turn to, no friends you can count on. This is the experience of many of our residents, in particular our young adults. They are suddenly forced to navigate adulthood on their own, without any support, guidance, or safety net.

Helping residents form permanent social connections and healthy relationships is an essential part of our mission. For four of our young adult residents, affectionately nicknamed the “Fab 4,” COTS has given them the opportunity to form true friendships with their fellow residents.

The four young adults came to COTS with little post-secondary education and limited work experience. In fact, one of our young adults, who just graduated from high school, has never had a job before. We connected all four with ServiceWorks™ at Riverview Gardens™ so that they can learn transferable job skills in a no-fail environment. They spend weekday mornings as a part of CARE Team, cleaning up downtown Appleton. After work, they spend their time playing basketball or working in the hoop house at COTS, going to the YMCA, and playing card games.

“They’re a positive group of people, people that don’t use [drugs and alcohol] and don’t peer pressure me into doing stuff I don’t want to do,” says one of the “Fab 4.” These meaningful friendships are a key part of the healing process and critical to becoming a self-sufficient adult.



“It feels really good to have some people in my age group to hang with. They’re a positive group of people.”





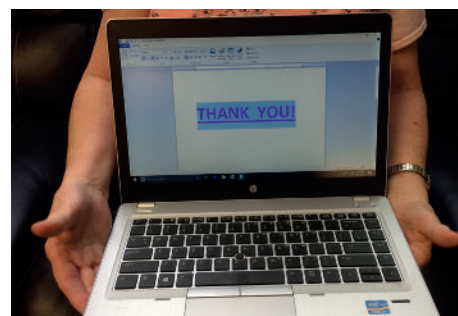
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Tools for Academic Success

Seven COTS residents are currently enrolled in post secondary education classes. Our “Tools for Academic Success” campaign asked your help in getting our student residents the IT support they need to maximize the benefits of their continued education. **So far, our community has donated over \$13,000 along with many laptops and desktops for our students!**

“Alice,” who received her new laptop, generously donated by Azco, Inc, was over the moon and proud to share she made the Dean’s List at FVTC this past semester. Plus she received an “A” on her first algebra exam this summer semester. She can’t wait to put her new laptop to use! She knows that it will help her stay on the path to success and graduation next spring. Thank you for opening a new world of opportunity for our residents!



Wish List

- Meal Ministers to prepare caring meals for our residents
- Gardeners to lend expertise in our hoop house, which grows fresh vegetables for our residents

If you are interesting in volunteering at COTS, please contact Lindsey at (920)734-3609 x 404 or ldalton@appletoncots.org.