



Ending homelessness in the Fox Valley

## Campus of Change Summer/Fall 2018

### Grand Chute Home Depot helps provide “next step” housing

A huge THANKS goes out to Wendy Winters, Store Manager/Grand Chute Home Depot and Home Depot volunteers from her store and from across the state. They provided materials and time to renovate our newest program site – COTS 1312 S. Monroe St. on the Sacred Heart Campus.

On May 24, Wendy's team, and veterans from Riverview Gardens and COTS started the renovations. The Home Depot brought paint, flooring, cabinets, lighting, window treatments, and more to transform the building. This effort provides long-term impact for participating veterans as they gain transferable work skills to impact their lives and other veterans in our community.



Our other good neighbors include **Rob Peterson of Rock Road Plumbing (Black Creek, WI)**, for his continued support at Monroe Street and all of our projects. Thank you Rob!!

### Bassett Mechanical Chills the Air and Warms our Hearts!



Consultation with experts determined COTS needed to make changes to our HVAC unit. Changes to allow our residents to have healthy, stable air quality. Non-profits like COTS rely on experts who provide time and talent to make the necessary changes.

**Enter Bassett Mechanical** - with skilled workers who surpassed normal usage time to help us in our time of need! They brought in the big equipment on May 14 to deliver a new chiller unit. Since then, Bassett Mechanical staff hooked up the unit and have been working hard to update all of our HVAC infrastructure. **A BIG THANK YOU to Bassett Mechanical for all you do for COTS!**

(See related article on page 2)

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# One Good Thing Leads To Another

*How one good neighbor helping COTS leads to others doing good...*

**Bassett Mechanical was founded on the belief that respect for people and genuine concern and empathy help create vibrant communities and lasting relationships. Through these community and associate relationships, we become aware of opportunities that allow the company to provide a deeper more specific level of assistance for local organizations in need.**

In 2016, Brad Hagens, a service technician at Bassett Mechanical, became concerned about the heating and cooling systems in the COTS facilities. While volunteering his services at COTS, he realized that the building needs were greater than he could resolve on his own, and wondered what Bassett could do to help.

A team from Bassett met with COTS representatives, and found two buildings, built in the 1960's, were experiencing a great deal of problems. The issues were due to age and lack



of preventative maintenance. A fix would require a very costly large-scale equipment replacement; an unexpected capital expense that included a heating and cooling system upgrade/replacement.

This provided a significant opportunity for Bassett Mechanical to get involved using the company's area of expertise. Associates approached Bill Bassett, Bassett's Chairman of the Board, and asked for his input on assisting COTS.



Bill and his wife Sue have supported COTS for many years. They drop by on a regular basis with bags of comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, toiletries - whatever the residents need.

"COTS is a great organization," Bill explained, "they help people to help themselves; to get back on their feet and become self-sufficient and accountable for their own wellbeing." Bill's immediate answer to our team's request for this opportunity was **"let's do whatever is needed to take care of the COTS residents."**

The Bassett team quickly evaluated the facilities and identified which systems needed a major maintenance overhaul. Bassett was pleased to donate engineering and time for the audit; as well as to perform the initial work, which included equipment, materials, and minor updates.

Getting the systems operating at a more sustainable level prior to any major equipment replacement became the priority. However, during this timeframe, one of the facility chillers failed. In fall of 2017 the second chiller servicing the air conditioning system failed and could not be repaired.





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It was time to complete a full assessment and design related to new equipment for air conditioning for the coming 2018 summer.

In April 2018, the Bassett team began making changes to the much needed cooling system. This included an update for the existing equipment room and removal of the old chillers. The team installed new piping, insulation, and electrical along with a brand new chiller.



The timeline was tight with a goal to have the cooling system up and running at the end of June, when weather forecasters indicated the hot weather would hit.

**The Bassett team put in long days and extra effort. Thanks to their hard work the system was operational on Wednesday, June 27.** Bassett is happy to donate engineering time and workforce labor to this project.

To follow suit, many of Bassett's subcontractors also donated their labor or provided reduced rates.

Despite all of the various donations of labor, equipment, and parts, the capital expense still exceeds COTS' annual improvements budget. They need help covering the remaining equipment and material costs.

Bassett reached out to ask key community leaders and organizations for help to fund this project. We are excited to report that the J.J. Keller Foundation approved a \$25,000 Matching grant awarded through the Jack J. and Ethel D. Keller fund at the Community Foundation donations made to the HVAC project!

We are incredibly grateful to J.J. Keller Foundation for their generous donation.

"We fully support this organization and wish there were more like it", said Bill Bassett. Bassett continues to



support COTS by looking for community partners who might also help COTS meet their financial goals.

**We hope you join with Bassett Mechanical, J.J. Keller Foundation, the Boldt Family Fund, Inc., Community First Credit Union, and other various Bassett subcontractors and donors to help complete this project.**

*(article written by Patty Van Ryzin and Katelyn Bogenschneider from Bassett Mechanical)*



**COTS \$25,000 Matching Grant through the Jack J. and Ethel D. Keller Fund of the Community Foundation** for heating/cooling mechanical needs, met by your heartfelt donations.

Your kindness directly impacts our residents with stable air quality throughout the year, helping them to maintain good health as they work toward better lives.

***It's the generosity and compassion of our individual and corporate donors that make changes like this possible...***

**THANK YOU!!**



P.O. Box 1645  
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**“Change is the end result of all true learning.”** Leo Buscaglia

*In the past year, four individuals participating at COTS graduated from college. Three graduated from Fox Valley Technical College; and one of our Veterans graduated from UW-Oshkosh and is now enrolled in a Master's degree program.*

When basic needs are met our residents have the opportunity to work on fulfilling personal goals. These opportunities impact our residents and our community.

**A neighbor who helps with a critical need...**

**... is a great neighbor indeed!** COTS has great neighbors in our Fox Valley community who step up to help with critical needs. Two such generous companies are **the Home Depot** and **Bassett Mechanical**.

Look on the front and the inside of COTS Summer/Fall 2018 newsletter for more about these and many other terrific corporate neighbors.