



COTS 2021 Impact

Ending Homelessness
in the Fox Valley

Building Stable Foundations

COTS has served as the stable foundation for our community's struggling neighbors experiencing homelessness for more than 20 years. We are proud to continue serving our local community members by helping them navigate their journey toward self-sufficiency and independence.

Even with the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic in 2021, when many support services were virtual, COTS increased onsite life skills classes for residents. Staff nurtured strong partnerships with landlords to secure independent living for residents amid the local affordable housing crisis. Applications for young adults were higher than ever before, focusing case management efforts to ensure graduation from high school. And we welcomed the highest number of local veterans that COTS has historically seen.

Despite these unique new barriers, increasing applications, and growing waitlists, COTS programming is averaging higher than projected success in 2021. Although we cannot predict the fallout from the tumultuous pandemic, COTS will continue to innovate, serve, and advocate.

Thank you for being on this journey with COTS and our residents. *Together*, we can continue to build a stable foundation alongside our vulnerable neighbors.

In shared commitment,



Cindy Sahotsky
Executive Director



Candice Lane
Deputy Director

COTS Story

1998:
COTS Founded
Men's Program
by Reverend Orville
Janssen

2005:
Single
Women's
Program

2010:
Single Mothers with
Young Children
promoting steps toward
reunification of families

2012:
Added Young
Adult
(ages 18 - 24)
Program &
Formal
Aftercare
Program

2014:
Veterans & Young
Adult program
merge to same
building -
819 S. West Ave.

2016:
Opened onsite
primary &
behavioral health
clinic,
collaborating with
Partnership
Community
Health Center

2017:
Expanded Positive
Placement
(Aftercare) Program
to 3 years of
support to decrease
reoccurrence rates

2018:
Monroe
House
established

2020:
Oshkosh COTS campus
established serving
single women



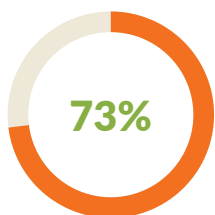
COTS Mission

Ending Homelessness
in the Fox Valley

Resident Programs: A Holistic Approach

COTS provides transitional shelter to over 50 individuals daily with holistic programming serving single men, women, young adults, and veterans.

We are the bridge from crisis care to permanent independent living.



COTS Residents
moved into their own safe
and stable housing in 2021

Education & Employment:

- Obtaining & maintaining employment
- Money Management & Financial Literacy onsite
- Connection to higher education
- Residents keep a "rule of 40" hours/week of meaningful activity

Housing Stability:

- Safe, stable shelter for up to 2 years at COTS
- Rent Smart renter's education to build independence
- Food, personal hygiene & household products provided

92%

COTS residents
are employed
or have stable income

2500+ hours

in classes focused on living
skills, financial literacy,
budgeting, & renter's
education

Resident Programs: A Holistic Approach

Individuals who struggle with homelessness in the Fox Valley experience **complex barriers to independence**, such as mental health concerns, substance use disorder, social isolation, and untreated physical health conditions.

Residents work hard every day toward their goals.

Social Connections:

- Community building within COTS shelters
- AODA support services & recovery community building
- Reunification with family
- Church and spirituality connections

Well-Being:

- Collaborative onsite clinic with Partnership Community Health Center
- Assist with obtaining health insurance
- Establish primary care with medical, dental, & behavioral services



2000+ hours

volunteering & giving
back to our community



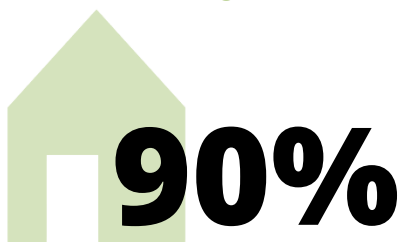
75% Residents

use our on-site
Partnership Community
Health Center clinic
for their well-being

Positive Placement Program

COTS Positive Placement Program **prevents future incidents of homelessness** for residents who leave COTS and move into their own independent housing. For **three years** we offer support and assistance so they stay in stable housing and remain employed. Our Positive Placement Program helps prevent those we serve from experiencing homelessness again.

COTS is one of the few programs nationwide providing up to three years of follow-up.



of individuals remain in
safe, stable, &
independent housing

— “ —

*I owe a lot to
COTS. I'll be forever
grateful. Thank you
so much.*

— ” —

— “ —

*I built a savings
account &
I love my job. I'm
always thankful!*

— ” —

- Former COTS shelter residents
living independently



individuals enrolled in the
Positive Placement
Program during 2021

Thank You!

Your financial and volunteer support helps drive the success of COTS residents on their path to self-sufficient, independent living.

Thank you for helping COTS provide a safe and stable environment offering opportunities for lasting, positive change.

Together, we can end the cycle of homelessness in the Fox Valley.



“

You inspired me to believe in myself.



”

“

I know I need help. I don't want to let my kids down any more.



”

- COTS shelter residents

Special thanks to N.E.W. Printing for the donation of this report

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