



## CONTACT US

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## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Help us provide for our residents:

- New pillows
- New twin sheet sets
- New twin mattress protectors
- New bath towel sets
- Table lamps

For a complete list of needed items visit: [appletoncots.org/get-involved/wish-list](http://appletoncots.org/get-involved/wish-list)

To donate, call Barb: 920.734-3609 ext. 1

## FOLLOW US



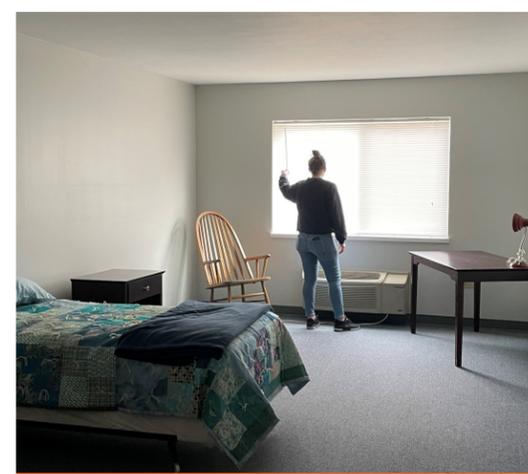
# MEETING THE NEED IN OSHKOSH

Since 1998, the COTS program has bridged the gap between emergency/crisis care and independent housing by helping individuals experiencing homelessness move to self-sufficiency. We are now expanding our reach into the Oshkosh community!

Oshkosh has long-identified a gap in services within the housing continuum, causing a continuously high reoccurrence rate. In 2018, the COTS Board of Directors moved to expand our program and services for residents in Winnebago and Green Lake counties. After two years of searching, we found the perfect building to help people experiencing homelessness. Partnering with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Winnebago/Oshkosh Housing Authority, and Father Carr's Place2B, we now have two locations serving single men and women right in the Oshkosh community.

One of our Oshkosh residents, Steve, was able to move from our Appleton shelter to the new Oshkosh men's building. Steve is a veteran who works for an incredible local employer. This move allowed him to save extensively on gas money, as the new building is only minutes away from his work. He is currently working with a local financial coach and focusing to pay down past debts. This move allowed him to be closer to family, greatly improving his ability to reunify with this support system.

Our COTS team looks forward to the continued progress and growth of our mission: to end homelessness across the greater Fox Cities.



Left: COTS single men's shelter in Oshkosh located at 1158 N. Koeller St.

Above: COTS rooms are equipped with essentials for residents.

Below: OACF volunteers help prepare the new building by painting the living room.



## How COTS is ending homelessness



COTS residents maintain stable housing three years after completing our programming & finding housing.



COTS holistic programming encompasses four areas shown to best empower individuals as they work toward independent housing: stable housing, education & employment, social connections, and well-being.

**Residents work hard every day toward their goals, as seen in the following measures from the first half of the year:**

		
<b>1,900 hours</b> devoted to onsite living skills classes	<b>345 visits</b> to medical, dental, or behavioral health providers	<b>3,000+ hours</b> volunteering/giving back to our community



**21 Residents**  
Secured stable, affordable housing thus far in 2022



**Individuals**  
work & have stable income



**Capacity levels**  
of our 5 shelter locations in 2022

**"You helped me to believe in myself, again."**

-Former COTS resident living independently

Year-to-date cumulative data as of July 1, 2022



819 S. West Ave.  
Appleton, WI 54915

# WITH YOUR HELP

Dear Friends,

Local economic reports find that 30% of our neighbors are struggling to have their basic needs met during this continued crisis. Increasing inflation and energy costs, coupled with the lack of affordable housing are creating the perfect storm for pushing people into situational poverty.

Today we are seeing an increase in applications for individuals who have not had to navigate services like COTS before the pandemic. The need for COTS transitional shelter continues to grow. Our community may no longer be in lockdown, but our neighbors are struggling in its aftermath.

**Your investment in COTS residents has provided a tangible solution to these challenges. Now, more than ever, our residents need your support! Your contribution today will be matched dollar for dollar thanks to the partnership of the Oshkosh Corporation Foundation and Amcor Cares, providing a generous \$20,000 matching gift!**

Beth, a resident in our single women's shelter, has benefited from COTS programming for two years. She has stable full-time employment, paid off past debts, and built a savings account to pay for future educational goals. Beth is ready for her next step, but due to her background, cannot obtain affordable housing on her own. With the help of COTS's relationship with a local landlord, Beth is now on the waitlist for an upcoming apartment! She will continue to have safe housing at COTS while she waits.

With your help, COTS provides the solution to move forward. Individuals experiencing homelessness desperately need a safe place to live, with food, household items, and the living skills education to transition back into self-sufficiency and independent living. COTS residents work hard to be a part of their own solution and overcome the barriers that led them to our front door. 90% of residents in our program maintain housing stability post-COTS.

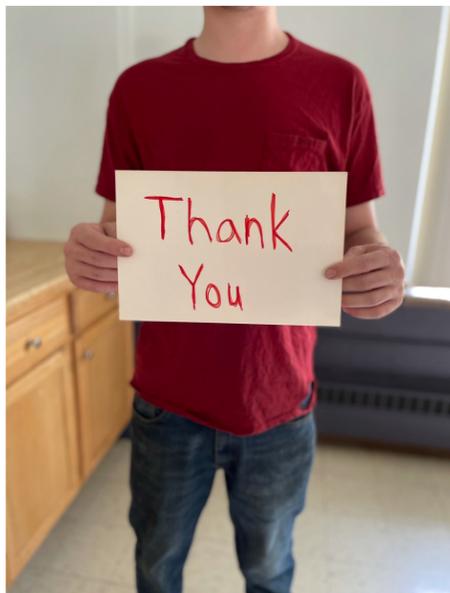
It's truly your support that impacts the futures of our vulnerable neighbors. An investment in COTS residents is an investment in the greater Fox Valley, as COTS residents re-enter our community as economically stable neighbors who give back.

Please consider a generous contribution - **one that will be matched dollar for dollar** - to support all COTS residents. Thanks to your support, they are getting everything they need to thrive and become self-sufficient.

*In shared commitment,*

*Cindy Schotsky*  
Executive Director

*Cristina Jones*  
Deputy Director



Thank you to all our generous community partners who continue to support COTS residents across the greater Fox Cities!

**Special thanks to N.E.W. Printing for their charitable donation in printing this newsletter.**