

“Ending Homelessness in the Fox Valley”

COTS, Inc.

Newsletter – April 2009

The Passing of a Resident: In Memory Todd Bohn

We were saddened and shocked by the passing of one of our residents, Todd Bohn, (2-15-09). Todd had been living at COTS for



approximately 7 months and had a positive influence on those he came in contact with. He said once that he had learnt the hard way on how to be nice to people. He was always willing to help others and always offered assistance whenever he could to both residents and staff members and will be extremely missed by all who knew him.

Todd wanted to help raise funds for COTS and was going to participate in the Human Race 2009 on May 2nd. As a tribute to Todd; COTS will be dedicating our walk to his memory. For those who would like to join us in the walk, you are most welcome.

Letter of Appeal

Thank you for believing in our program’s mission of, “Ending Homelessness in the Fox Valley”. Your support enables us to continue to expand our programs. When you consider COTS began by simply offering a bed for the night and it’s now grown to teaching life skills for independent living, it’s quite remarkable.

We still have more to do! Although we have good resources for individuals entering our program, we need to provide greater assistance during the program to assist with their transition back into the community.

Our goal is to add a staff member to help with both these areas, at a cost of Thirty Five Thousand dollars per year. This would result in COTS achieving a greater rate of success, as individual’s transition back into the community and help us take one more step closer to achieving our mission of “Ending Homelessness in the Fox Valley”.

Please consider a gift that will help to make a difference for both an individual and our community.

We thank you again for your past support and your recognition of the good we do.

Ways You Can Get Involved

- Assist with Fundraising Projects
- Join the Meals Ministry
- In-kind Donations
- Monetary Donations/Gifts
- Endowments

For more information:

Contact Kathryn Phillipbeck on 920-734-3609

or visit our website www.appletoncots.org

How my life changed with help from COTS. Two residents tell their story.

By Doug Kobow

On October 28, 2007, I entered the COTS program. This was a very tough experience for me for many reasons. After experiencing costly medical treatments,



compounded with the fact that I had no insurance, I found myself buried in debt and homeless. As I was recovering from my illness, I began to come to the realization that there weren’t many job prospects left in Ripon. With the help of family, we started searching for a solution. So here I am.

I am very thankful that in 3 short weeks I was able to find employment with West Business Service. With rent coming due shortly, and not having started work, I soon found myself with another dilemma. I turned to Todd Sutton and explained my needs to him. Todd was very understanding of my situation and made the necessary arrangements with me so that I would be able to start my new job off on the right foot.

It is now 18 months later, I am still with the same company. I am very thankful of the COTS. program because it has allowed me to gain some much needed stability in my life (including insurance) as well as helped me set priorities that allow me to plan for my future. I have managed to repay several debts and have even seen an improvement in my credit

score. I am also in the process of purchasing a car. I am very thankful that there is a program available that allows a person to get back on

their feet. I want to thank the staff for pointing me in the right direction to accomplish all that I have done. I want to especially thank all the donors for their generosity. I have cherished the Christmas gifts, been very thankful of the many dinners and other food donations, but most of all, I am thankful for all of those who constantly keep us in their prayers and lend their support to the COTS program.

By Lynn Strauch

When I became a resident at women's COTS, I had completed an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program. Instead of moving home with the help of my family, ex-husband and children, I decided to stay living closer to my recovery family. COTS helped me above and beyond what I expected out of the program.

Tracie (Women's Program Manager) has helped me cope with a lot of tragic events in the past couple of years. My Dad passed away on July 16th 2007. He had been in recovery for 16 years. This was very hard on me and Tracie helped me through it. A friend of mine who lived at COTS also died and my ex-husband died this past November.

The COTS program has been very beneficial for me. In a few months I will be moving out and I will miss the program, but the program has also helped me to be prepared for what is in store for me. I am a little bit over 2 years clean and sober and would like to keep it that way. Thank you COTS for all that you have done for me.

UPCOMING EVENTS!!

September:

2009 Annual Report Breakfast

(Exact Date yet to be determined)

The Human Race 2009



Thank you to everyone that helped raise money and walked in the Human Race on Saturday May 2nd. It was fabulous to see how people in our community united to help the non-profits in our area. The weather was great and it was a lot of fun. We are lucky to live in such a wonderful and giving community.

75% of money we raise is returned back to COTS and with your help this year we raised \$1675.00. A very BIG thank you to all those participated. We look forward to you all joining us again next year for this fun event.



A Special Thank You To Our In-Kind Donors

December 2008-April 2009

Meal Ministry; Roger & Ethel Walbrun; Victoria and Lyle Reigel; Students of Lawrence University; Culvers – Darboy; Appleton Sign Company; Macys; First Congregational Church; First Presbyterian Church; First United Methodist Church; Fred Gaines; Cathie Gill; Students of Holy Spirit School; Anita Kapp; Jan Letko; Mills Fleet Farm; Penny Paris; Lois and Harry Porath; Randy and Cindy Sahotsky; Jansport; Aubree Schmidt; Sara Squires; St Mary Parish and Human Concerns Committee; St. Mary Parish, 7th & 8th grade Religious Educations Students; Turkey; Hotchandani Laser and Vein Center; Hallmark Place; Starbucks Coffee Company; Dave Baumann; Jim Klinzing; Al Tyczkowski; Bill and Teri Bohn, Cries of the Heart Outreach Ministries, Tom Janssen, Fred Gaines, Therese Janssen, Carla Melanson, Macy's, Joan Rothe, Mary Riner, and Menasha Packaging Corporation, LLC and Swanson Wiper Corporation

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to those that helped coordinate our very first annual fundraiser, "Encore for COTS". Appleton West Rotary for co-sponsoring this event and the volunteers who helped on performance night; Xavier High School - Jim Romenesko from the Theatre Department and Jim Biesterveld; N.E.W. Printing, Mike Fischer; Willems Marketing, Debra Sutton; Hanson Benefits; and to all the volunteers that distributed fliers and also helped on the night of the performance.

A Message from our Room Sponsor's: Hoffman LLC Paul J. & Nancy Hoffman

The mission of Hoffman, LLC is: "We make a positive impact on people's lives and their environment by providing creative ideas and responsible solutions." Our mission requires that our company gives to our community in meaningful and helpful ways.

The COTS program is a perfect fit for living our mission by donating to a valued organization that provides needed assistance to the

people served by COTS in our community. Every person helped with their problems benefit greatly from the generosity of individuals and corporations.

It is especially important in this difficult economy that people and companies maintain their commitment of giving to our neighbors who are less fortunate and need our help the most during these trying times of hardship and pain.

Unfortunately, some organizations choose to reduce or eliminate their giving. When this occurs, everyone loses. Now is not the time to turn our backs on organizations like COTS. Valuable community enhancing organizations like COTS need your help today more than ever.

Hoffman, LLC will continue to give back to the community we all call "home." We choose to do it because it fits our mission, and it is the right thing to do.

So, make a positive impact on people's lives. Give generously and support the wonderful programs at COTS!

Paul Hoffman
Owner/CEO
Hoffman, LLC



From the Directors Desk

Executive Director: Todd Sutton

There is a saying that "success begets success". The quote suggests that each time we rise to a challenge and move through it with even a small measure of success, we experience a sense of accomplishment which builds our confidence in meeting the next challenge; and the cycle continues . During my time at COTS, I have witnessed a similar phenomenon that I have translated into a new saying: "Generosity begets generosity".

The most recent example of this began with St. Elizabeth's Hospital Community Foundation awarding a grant to COTS. On the day that the check was presented, I gave a radio interview on WHBY. This interview was heard by Jim Romenesko, the Theater Director at Xavier High School. He was moved to action and called me the

following day to express his desire to help our cause. Within two months, with the help of numerous volunteers and in-kind donors, we held our first annual fundraising event "ENCORE! – A Concert for COTS" on March 14. Over twenty musicians (most of whom were local students) performed inspirational songs from Broadway musicals and the proceeds from ticket sales went to support programs at COTS.

What started as an idea during Jim's commute grew into a marvelous production! The number of people involved in providing support (financial, time, talent, energy, etc) increased nearly every day. The

closing song at ENCORE was perfect. A stirring rendition of "The Impossible Dream" from the musical Man of La Mancha reminded me how fortunate we are to have so many who support our mission.

"Together we are making a meaningful impact in the lives of others and throughout our community"

Recent Foundation Grants



John Wollner of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation, pictured with Todd Sutton as he accepts a \$50,000 grant to help towards our General Operating expenses

Todd Sutton, Marty O'Brien and Dave Van Hoof accepted a \$10,000 grant from Tonya Dederling of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Community Foundation.

