



THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY SHELTER HOMEFRONT

VOL. 29, NO. 2

www.cotsonline.org

FALL/WINTER 2011

Families in shelter: Help comes in many ways

Nationwide, the rise in homeless students is staggering, increasing 38 percent between 2006 and 2009. COTS and Vermont mirror those troubling statistics.

“The image of homelessness in most people’s minds is far from the reality,” said Rita Markley, COTS executive director. “In our community, the face of homelessness is increasingly the face of a child.”

In October, 141 schoolchildren in Chittenden County were homeless. There were an additional 48 children under age 5 living in shelter or on the COTS shelter waiting list.

The primary reason for the rise in homeless children, according to national study and supported by COTS data: the economic downturn.

As a result, COTS has stepped up efforts in prevention to reach families in crisis *before* they need shelter. COTS also has increased enrichment and support for children in shelter, including the “book buddies” literacy program, tutoring and other activities.

Gardens deliver beauty to uplift

By Amanda Petry

This spring many of COTS shelters and transitional housing units blossomed into life like never before. Volunteers came out from the winter thaw with gardening tools and rich compost in hand, rubber boots to get muddy and a mission to make residents at COTS shelters feel a little bit more at home.

Longtime volunteer Louise Merriam and her friends from the Northwest Board of Vermont Realtors worked on making the gardens at Main Street Family Shelter a permanent addition to the backyard by constructing a rock wall. Former COTS board member Maree Gaetani and a crew from Gardener’s Supply Co. donated time and materials to get the project off the ground.

Together they created a large edible garden that thrived over the spring, summer and into the fall. The garden was full of herbs, beans, tomatoes, basil, thyme, rosemary, lettuce and flowers, which family shelter children helped plant. The fresh produce was used all summer long by clients in shelter and for COTS cooking classes.

continued on page 3



Peter and Wally Perkins at the Main Street Family Shelter.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Wally Perkins dedicates efforts to help children, parents in shelter

By Amanda Petry

With shelter stays up to six months, students are sometimes spending the majority of their school year with COTS.

Volunteers work with staff to help ease these tremendous challenges for children.

One courageous volunteer, who has been a lifeline for the 25 families living in COTS family shelters, is Wally Perkins. Wally is the epitome of a COTS rock star, dedicating hours to families in need.

Wally came to COTS more than eight years ago and quickly carved out a role for herself. As a retired school psychologist from Massachusetts, she moved to Vermont to be closer to her family. Little did she know then what a critical role she would soon play in the lives of so many families.

Wally is somewhat of a COTS Renaissance woman. She constantly looks at ways to

continued on page 5



COMMITTEE ON
TEMPORARY SHELTER

HomeFront is published twice a year,
in December and April, by:

**COMMITTEE ON
TEMPORARY SHELTER**

PO Box 1616
Burlington, VT 05402
802-864-7402
administrative 802-540-3084
fax 802-864-2612
www.cotsonline.org

Established 1982

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lesli Blount, *Chair*
- Mike New, *Vice Chair*
- Pat Thornton, *Treasurer*
- David Conrad
- Catherine Cronk
- Nicole Fenton
- Michel George
- Laurie Gunn
- Joyce Hagan
- George Hubbard
- Rolf Kielman
- Drew Nixon
- Jeffrey Nolan
- Ron Redmond
- Brigitte Ritchie
- Steve Roberts

Rita Markley, *Executive Director*



HOMEFRONT

Editor

Becky Holt

Writer

Amanda Petry

Designer

Lisa Cadieux, Liquid Studio

FOLLOW US ONLINE

www.cotsonline.org

www.facebook.com/COTSONline

@COTSVt



The COTS Housing Resource Center moved to its new, permanent home at 95 North Ave. this fall. COTS plans on this building serving as community hub for homeless prevention efforts and services for families.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

COTS Housing Resource Center: Prevention key to end homelessness

By Amanda Petry

For almost three decades, COTS has advocated for long-term solutions to ending homelessness. With COTS' homeless prevention initiative – the Housing Resources Center (HRC) – we are taking a big step forward toward that reality.

Since 2008, the HRC has prevented eviction or foreclosure for more than 1,038 households, representing 2,670 people – 1,155 of whom are children. Of those helped by the HRC, 92 percent have retained their housing without further COTS assistance.

By helping individuals and families maintain housing, the HRC's prevention services help Vermont households avoid the financial and emotional devastation of becoming homeless.

How it works

HRC staff members work with each applicant to create a budget plan, help them in the job searching process and link them to resources, such as food stamps (3SquaresVT), Community Action, Reach Up, fuel assistance and unemployment benefits.

The program helps participants cover financial gaps through low-interest loans or small grants. The funds are allocated

to best suit each client's individual needs, which include money for security deposits, overdue rent, or other contingency, such as a persistent medical ailment, transition in employment or owed utility payments. Without these options, many families and individuals would be at risk of eviction.

Additionally, HRC staff work with landlords in the community to ensure a financial guarantee for those who would otherwise not be eligible for housing.

The direct beneficiaries of HRC programs are low- to middle-class working families, whose income does not keep pace with the rising cost of living. Of those who seek assistance, 45 percent come because they lost their job or had their hours cut. Another 16 percent need help because of an illness.

Since its inception, COTS' Housing Resource Center has been the lifeline of Chittenden County's most vulnerable households. Through the HRC, participants at the verge of becoming homeless can strengthen their credit and rental history with the guidance of case managers to enable them to maintain housing and avert homelessness.

Gardens...*continued from page 1*

“Creating the edible garden at the Main Street Family Shelter was such a positive experience,” Louise explained. “I am so happy that we were able to show the children the whole gardening process. I think they really enjoyed it.”

Canal Street Veterans Housing

Another horticultural success story at COTS happened this spring at the brand-new Canal Street Veterans Housing, where formerly homeless men and women veterans and their families participate in a transitional housing program. The building was completed in January, and by May, was fully occupied.

Architect Bob Duncan designed the unique building, which allows veterans to have their own space in fully equipped individual apartments, while maintaining a sense of community with a large first floor lounge and family style kitchen. His wife, Jean Markey Duncan, added her own final touch to the building with a beautiful flower garden. Jean took the reins of the Canal Street garden project recruiting a team of experienced gardeners.

“I wanted those who live in the housing to feel a sense of pride of place and to feel welcomed as they entered their home,” Jean said. “The flowers match the building, and you will note that the siding reminds you somewhat of camouflage, but instead of green camouflage, the colors are transformed into the color of red rocks. It was Bob’s way of assuring the vets that they were, in fact, home – a kind

of a swords into plowshares notion, too.”

Jean recruited Leonard Perry, the well-known extension horticulturalist from the University of Vermont. He created the plant layout to complement the unique building style, with patriotic nods. He selected white and blue annuals, millet and ‘purple robe’ Huechera, Tiarella, and Achillea “Apricot Delight.”

Jean also enlisted Nancy Hulett, the Home Horticulture and Master Gardener Program Coordinator, to recruit master gardeners to work on the project and Brian Mitchell at Gardener’s Supply Co., who sold the flowers at wholesale.

Just as they were ready to plant, they realized the soil in the beds was not deep enough. That’s when City Market administrative staff volunteers and a few Canal Street veterans came to the rescue. They performed very difficult grunt work of moving three yards of soil into the beds.

“I love how Vermonters come together to help one another. I think there was recognition that this was a special project because it was housing for veterans,” Jean said.

While a volunteer prepped the flower beds, a veteran living at Canal Street told Jean that when he lost everything in a financial crisis, the hardest thing to ultimately give up was his garden. Jean said that gardens are often a connection for people – to a memory of time with a grandparent or parent, as well as to happier times and home. This, too, was a motivation for her efforts at Canal Street – to bring new happiness and positive memories.

The gardens serve to bring beauty to the residents of COTS facilities. They are also a way to express to guests that they matter, to say we care that they have a place to stay that is safe, decent and full of hope.



Volunteers smile after planting flower beds at Canal Street.

COTS: A proud United Way member

COTS is United Way member agency. We receive 5 percent of our annual budget through generous donations to the United Way. We are grateful, too, for the agency’s year-round support helping COTS connect with volunteers in our community.



While we bid a very fond farewell to longtime United Way of Chittenden County executive director Gretchen Morse earlier this year, we happily greeted MARTHA MAKSYM, who assumed the top post when Gretchen retired earlier this year.

We also want to commend Martha and her team for their tremendous work coordinating volunteers in the wake of Hurricane Irene’s devastating impact on Vermont.

Learn more about the United Way of Chittenden County: www.unitedwaycc.org.

It takes a village...

The kindness and generosity of COTS supporters has made it possible for us to help the neediest in our community. We want to extend our appreciation to all of you. Here are just a few highlights of volunteer efforts over the summer and fall that made it all happen...

The first and second grade **Girl Scout troops of East Montpelier** donated more than 50 new books and 38 new pairs of pajamas for children in COTS family shelters. The girls made the purchases using the money they earned from selling cookies and with a donation from the Walmart in Berlin.



Jo Herstand and a group of quilters handmade 28 colorful quilts for children staying at COTS family shelters.

HUBER + SUHNER invited COTS to its Family Day again this year. Families in shelter took the day to enjoy a summer barbeque, play games and win prizes. Each family was sent home with a gift basket, full of essential needs.

COTS participated in **The Lake Monsters 31 for 31** program, which gave 31 nonprofit organizations their own day to

raise awareness for their organization and receive 50% of the proceeds from online ticket sales from that day. Free tickets for COTS clients also were provided by The Lake Monsters through their "Share the Experience" program for guests of the Daystation and veterans who live at Canal Street.

Student **Kaela Meals** organized a resale of sport equipment and clothing at Burlington High School and raised more than \$450 dollars for COTS.

Goodwill Industries donates \$100 every month in vouchers to be used on "used items". In September, in response to Hurricane Irene, Goodwill donated an additional 10 vouchers.

In June, **Sugarbush Resort** donated hundreds of clean white bed sheets, a value of more than \$3,000, for COTS shelters.

The **Richmond Congregational Church** donated 300 pairs of new shoes to COTS given to them by John's Shoe Shop North in Richmond. In her free time, Cindy Felony transported the shoes to COTS with the help of her son.

Three Essex Middle School students, **Ian Lyle, Noah Baez** and **Jonah Vroegop**, organized a collection drive for COTS. They collected canned food items, toiletries, and bedsheet sets.



Essex Middle School students at the **Edge Academy** got in gear this spring in their student run "Pedals for Change" fund raiser, a 5-mile bike ride that raised money for COTS.

Citizens Bank donated 60 book bags and school supplies to COTS through their "Gear for Grades" program.

The **Blue Star Mothers of Vermont** have prepared monthly dinners and regular coffee deliveries to veterans staying at Canal Street Veterans Housing.

American Legion Post No. 91, with COTS Veterans Advisory Council member Rodney and his wife Corrine Myers, donated a new flatscreen television and cable services for the community room at Canal Street Veterans Housing.

Don Dubie of Alliance Property Management built two benches for Canal Street Veterans Housing, one bench for the front foyer and one outside for an outdoor seating area.

The **Department of Veterans Affairs** hosted a VA2K walk, collecting wish list items for homeless veterans in COTS' transitional housing.

Beginning this spring, **Denise Brown** has been delivering homemade baked goods every week to the Daystation. Some client favorites were her oatmeal raisin cookies and her chocolate nut toffee bars.

Allison Cleary's spring class at **St. Michael's College** and summer class at the **University of Vermont** created publicity material and brochures for COTS.

Danform Shoes donated more than 50 pairs of shoes to COTS clients at the Daystation this May. They delivered the shoes and then helped clients find just the right fit.

Northern Lights Rock & Ice, in conjunction with volunteers and the AmeriCorps member at the family shelters, made it possible for children to participate in an outdoor adventure course.

Vermont Teddy Bear Factory donated hundreds of girls' holiday pajama sets.

Very Merry Theatre and **Boys and Girls Club** both worked with the AmeriCorps member at family shelter to provide children access to local theater as well as recreational activities.

Jacquie Bolster's family and members of St. Michael's Chapel have organized Easter basket donations for family shelter for 17 years. This year, they coordinated 45 baskets for families in shelter. Jacquie has taken on an additional role this year – as a "Book Buddies" reading volunteer – along with her father, John, and adult daughter, Stephanie.

The Schoolhouse in South Burlington once again donated brunch bags for all the moms in shelter on Mother's Day. On the morning of delivery, we had three additional moms who had checked in the day before – and the Schoolhouse graciously accommodated, making sure everyone had a special gift.

Kiss the Cook has continued its generous support of COTS clients moving out of shelter and into their own apartments with donations of Move-In Kits.

Jean Harlow and **Carol Morris** hand-knitted beautiful winter hats, scarves and mittens to help keep COTS clients warm this winter season.

Gardener's Supply Co. contributed plants, gardening supplies and volunteer gardeners this summer and fall to keep COTS grounds looking their best.

Burlington Furniture Co. hosted its annual "Back to School" sale with a percentage of sales benefitting COTS.

Bite Me Pizza and **Papa John's** in Burlington and **Donny's New York Pizza** in Winooski have all donated pizzas for guests of COTS facilities.

Carter's in Essex donated clothes for children in family shelter.

Mirabelle's donates birthday cakes monthly to family shelter.

Williams-Sonoma donated new kitchen supplies for family shelter.

Texas Roadhouse in Williston has provided volunteers and donated lunch regularly at the Daystation.

Emily Celis, 7, wanted to help people who did not have homes, so instead of receiving presents from friends at her birthday party, she asked for donations to COTS, contributing her own money. Her sister **Chloe**, 3, was so inspired she generously donated her entire piggy bank. Together, the girls were able to raise \$200.



Wally Perkins...*continued from page 1*

better meet clients' needs, working with almost half of the families in shelter at any given time. Wally's work at COTS is comprehensive: She conducts GED tutoring, provides couples counseling, and creates family support plans, which include setting up bedtime routines, coaching parents, and assisting families in building structure and routine. Wally also advocates for children in shelter at their schools, which includes helping families request Individualized Education Programs, setting up parent/teacher conference meetings, and working with schools and families to address behavioral issues that a child might be experiencing.

Wally also acts as a mentor to AmeriCorps children's specialists, who work with COTS family shelter children. Wally provides them with in-depth training based upon years of educational experience.

"Wally has been my mentor through this whole year for me at COTS," said former AmeriCorps Skylar Wilson, who is now a COTS staffer. "She is my go-to lady and is always there for me when I need guidance with clients."

When asked how she does it all, Wally just laughed. "I feel so good helping out; it almost feels selfish," Wally explained. "I am just privileged with free time, a supportive husband, and help from an outstanding staff at COTS."

Nicole Marshall, COTS family shelter staff and volunteer coordinator, described Wally as incredibly sweet natured. Wally is always upbeat and positive, she said, even on the most challenging days.

"When Wally walks through the door, you can't help but smile," Marshall said. "Her dedication to COTS is through the roof. For an entire month, she came to COTS early in the morning to get three boys ready for school so their mother could take a class."

Wally works tirelessly to bring her skills to the most vulnerable families in our community. She hopes her efforts in relationships building can lead families to a successful future. "Working with these families has made me realize that they don't come to COTS to get a free ride. They work extremely hard to move above shelter," Wally said. "I think COTS does a great job to prepare families to be better off when they leave."

Wally said her husband, Peter, who also volunteers during math and GED tutoring sessions, makes her take a vacation once in a while to visit their five children and five grandchildren. During their 54 years of marriage, Wally said they have always supported each other in accomplishing their goals. In her time with COTS, Wally has helped countless families accomplish their goals, too. Words cannot express how grateful we are to have her here at COTS.

cots Walk



More than 1,500 walkers took the 3-mile trek around Burlington on May 1, a warm bluebird day for the 22nd annual COTS Walk, one of the organization's largest fundraisers.

Walkers helped raise \$150,000 in support of COTS services and facilities.

The walk would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors.

COMMUNITY SPONSOR

We are grateful to our top sponsor – **Seventh Generation** – who provided financial support and a wonderful in-kind donation of products to support families and individuals in COTS' facilities. We deeply appreciate their tremendous support.

We also want to thank our additional support from:

Route Sponsors:

HUBER + SUHNER
National Life of Vermont
Duncan*Wisniewski
Stephen & Burns

Media Sponsors:

Free Press Media
Star 92.9
Fox 44 / ABC 22

Site sponsor:

Blue Cross Blue Shield

T-Shirt Sponsors:

Northwestern Vermont Board of Realtors
Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew
KeyBank
Gardener's Supply Co.
City Market

Generous in-kind support by:

Ben & Jerry's Homemade Ice Cream
SymQuest Group, Inc.
IKON Office Solutions
Queen City Printers
Vermont Coffee Co.
The Willoughbys
Dr. Jazz and the Dixie Hotshots
Cookies for Good

Also: Hannaford Brothers Co., St. Michael's
MOVE Special Event Team, ECHO at the
Leahy Center, Zachary's Pizza, American
Flatbread, Vermont Pure Springs, Rhino
Foods, Majestic 10 Cinemas, Pepsi-Cola
Bottling Co., Price Chopper Foods, Kids Town,
Champlain Valley Exposition, Vermont Lake
Monsters, Majestic Car Rental, Airgas, Parlato
Productions, PP&D Distribution Services,
WB Mason, Hudson Valley Paper, Vermont
Moving & Storage, Curtis Lumber, Vermont
Teddy Bear Factory, Sodexo Inc. & Affiliates.

CHALLENGE WALKERS

Individual Challenge Walkers

Scot Barker
Lydia Carroon
Bob Duncan
Maree Gaetani
Melissa Goldberg
Joyce Hagan
George Hubbard
Maria Jarvis
Rolf Kielman
Nan Mason
Louise Merriam
Kate Purcell
Lucy Samara
Father Richard Tinney

Special recognition – Under 18 Challenge Walkers

Grace Dattilio
Alaina Knowles





Team Challenge Walkers

Business

Alliance Property Management, the "A" Team
Best Buy
Citizens Bank
Gardener's Supply Co.
General Dynamics
HUBER + SUHNER
IBM
Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer

Community

The 166 Gang
COTS Family Shelter Staff
GEMS, led by captain Grace Dattilio, age 9

Faith

First United Methodist Church
St. James Church
St. Paul Cathedral
St. Pius X
Shelburne United Methodist Church
Williston Federated Church

School

Mount Mansfield Union High School
National Honor Society
Rice Memorial High School
Christ the King School

Many thanks also to our amazing volunteers and the COTS Walk Planning Committee:

Sally Ballin
Barb Brisson
Gary Eley
Julie Lowell
Stephanie McKay
Louise Merriam
Amanda Petry
Michelle Richard
Lucy Samara
Vanessa Torchia
Skylar Wilson

Send a Katharine Montstream holiday card

A donation to COTS in the name of a friend, relative or co-worker is a wonderful gift for the holidays.

Make a minimum \$10 donation to COTS in someone's name, and we'll send the recipient a beautiful Katharine Montstream holiday card with the following message:

"A generous donation has been made to the Committee on Temporary Shelter in your name (donor's name inserted). This gift of warmth and shelter will help families and individuals who are experiencing the crisis of homelessness make it through the harsh winter months. Happy holidays and best wishes for the new year."

If you have questions, contact Becky Holt at (802) 540-3084, Ext. 204 or BeckyH@cotsonline.org.



Enjoy Cookies for Good

Sugarsnap delicious "Cookies for Good" are available year-round, helping COTS with each scrumptious bite: 35 percent from each \$1 cookie sold goes to COTS. Consider serving the cookies at your holiday party, business luncheon or send to a friend, co-worker or customer.

Flavors include: chocolate chip, double chocolate cherry almond, coconut cardamom with black sesame, peanut butter, oatmeal raisin, lemon poppyseed, ginger molasses snaps, java hazelnut and bittersweet chocolate orange.

Sugarsnap, founded in 2003, is a farm to table retailer and caterer with locations in Burlington and South Burlington. The fund-raising project is made possible in part by the support of Cabot Creamery cooperative.

Order or learn more about the cookies by visiting www.cookiesforgood.org (There is also a link at www.cotsonline.org) or call (802) 861-2951. Questions? You also can email: catering@thesnapvt.com.



Carry a COTS Flashbag

Last fall, COTS debuted its second totebag and accessories with local company Flashbags.

The totebag, wallets and placemats feature the doorknobs from the Main Street Family Shelter. This historic building was once a stop on the Underground Railroad, so it has a storied life as place for safe refuge. In fact, the central doorknob image is one from the basement where African-Americans hid, as they sought freedom and escape from slavery.

Burlington commercial photographer and artist Dok Wright donated his time to capture the photos that Flashbag owner Laura Cheney transformed into a unique COTS collage.

To order a tote bag (available in three sizes), placemats or wallet, call (802) 864-7402 or email info@cotsonline.org. Prices range from \$12 for the mini wallet to \$59 for the extra large shopping tote. For Flashbag orders placed directly through COTS, we receive 50 percent from each sale. For orders placed online at www.flashbagsonline.com, we receive 30 percent of each sale.



Progress made through prevention

Weak economy still hinders families on edge

In the United States, 14.7 million children live in poverty. In Vermont, 13 percent of children – or 16,093 youth – are growing up poor. In 2010, the poverty line for a family of four was \$22,314.

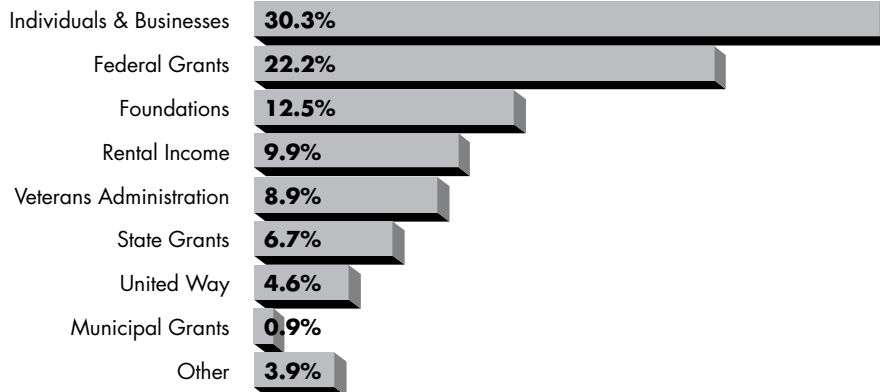
COTS shelters have remained full, with waiting lists, for much of this past year. The tight housing market and struggling economy have continued to negatively affect working families in Vermont.

In addition to providing shelter, COTS works with low-income families in crisis to avert homelessness. Through our prevention initiative, the COTS Housing Resource Center, more than 1,500 households have received back rent, mortgage arrearage or security deposit assistance in the past three years.

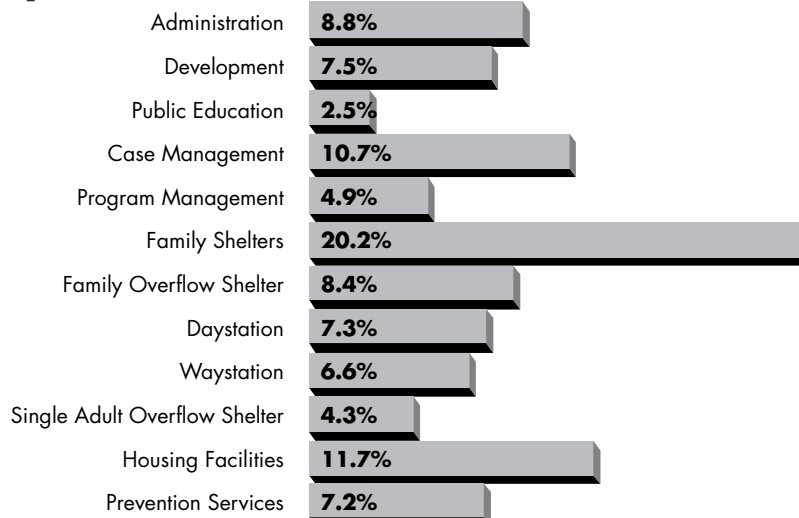
Of those seeking help from the HRC, 45 percent needed assistance because of a lost job or reduced hours. Another 16 percent were in financial crisis because of illness or a medical issue.

For these families on the edge, COTS has been the lifeline to prevent more families from falling into homelessness.

Revenue \$3,250,568



Expenses \$3,348,238*



by the numbers 2011

FAMILIES

228 families both in emergency shelter and in the community, received outreach and support from COTS case management.

107 families (including 115 parents and 122 children) stayed in COTS family shelters.

95 days The average length of stay in shelter for families.

SINGLE ADULTS

191 Single adults received outreach and support from COTS case management.

825 people visited the Daystation, with an average of 53 people per day.

278 different people were sheltered at the Waystation or Eagles.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

300 Households (families and single adults) received prevention grants and were able to avert homelessness. The average prevention award was \$800.

182 households (families and single adults) received security deposit grants, helping them move more quickly into permanent housing. The average award was \$657.

* This is the first time COTS has reported a deficit in many years. It reflects the extraordinary increase in need at a time of flat or declining resources. Our plan is to redouble efforts to offset any future gap in funding so that we can continue to meet this community's most urgent need. These numbers are all pre-audited.

Thank you!

These generous businesses and organizations provided in-kind and financial support during COTS' fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2010-Sept. 30, 2011). In addition to the names here, hundreds of individuals have made financial and/or in-kind gifts in support of COTS programs and services this year.

ORGANIZATION DONORS

A C Hathorne
A Single Pebble Restaurant
A.M. Turk Tax Associates, Inc.
Addison Four Corner Store
AIG Matching Grants Program
Airgas
Al's French Fry
Alana Coalition at UVM
All Souls Interfaith Gathering
Alliance Property Management, Inc.
Allscripts
Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation
America's Charities
America's Gardening Resource Inc
American Flatbread
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 35
American Legion Auxiliary, Green Mountain Unit 1
American Legion Post 14
American Legion Post 19
American Legion Post 42
American Legion Post 91
American Red Cross
Annie E. Casey Foundation Matching Gift Program
Apple Mountain Vermont Gifts & Speciality Foods
Ascension Lutheran Church
Ashgate Publishing Company
AT&T United Way Giving Campaign
AXA Equitable
Bed, Bath And Beyond, Corporate
Beeken Parsons
Belrose Home Inspection Services LLC
Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc.
Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream
Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc.
Best Buy Children's Foundation
Bio-Medic Appliances, Inc.
Bite Me Pizza
Blodgett, Watts & Volk, P.C.
Blue Star Mothers
Board Of School Commissioners
Bond Auto Parts
Building Performance Services LLC
Burlington Community Justice Center
Burlington Drug Company
Burlington Elks Lodge #916
Burlington Furniture Company
Burlington International Airport
Burlington Parks and Recreation
Burlington Tennis Club
Business Culture Consultants
Business Resource Services
C.S. Hall Remodeling
Cabot Vermont
Cady's Falls Nursery
Cambridge Cutters
Carter's
Casey Charitable Matching Programs
Catamount North
Champlain Cable Corporation
Champlain Consulting Engineers
Champlain Dental Laboratory, Inc
Champlain Investment Partners
Champlain Orthodontic Assoc., LTD
Champlain Radio Group
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging
Champlain Valley AHEC
Champlain Valley Exposition
Champlain Water District
Champlain Woodcraft
Charlotte-Shelburne Rotary Club
Chef's Corner Cafe Bakery
Chittenden County Court Diversion
Citizens Bank
City of Burlington
City of South Burlington
Clark's Truck Center
Clearwater Builders, Inc.
Clifford Farm LLC
Cloud 9 Caterers
Co-Operative Insurance Companies
Colchester High School
College Street Congregational Church
Competitive Computing
Concepts: In Structures, LLC
Congregational Women's Fellowship
Connor Contracting
Coombs, Davis & Hill, LLP
Costco Wholesale #314
Creative Teamworks
Cree Consulting, LLC
CRW Corporation
Cubs for Kids
Cummings Electric, P.C.
Curley Court Reporting
Curtis Lumber
CVAIP
Cx Associates LLC
Danform Shoes
Darby, Stearns, Thorndike, Kolter & Ware
Darn Tough Vermont
Daughters of Isabella, Madonna Circle
Dee Physical Therapy
Dok Wright Photography
Domino's Pizza
Dr. Juliann M. Moenter, DVM
Duncan's Auto Service
Duncan*Wisniewski Architecture
Eagle Eye Farm, Inc.
East Brookfield Congregational Church
Eating Well, Inc.
ECAC
ECHO at the Leahy Center
Echo, Inc
Edlund Company, Inc.
Employee Community Action Council of General Dynamics
Essential Salon Products Inc
Essex Family Dental
Essex High School
Essex Middle School
Essex Town School District
Essex United Methodist Women
Expressions
F.R. Lafayette, Inc.
FAHC Orthopedics Department
Fairewinds Associates, Inc.
Fairfield Inn By Marriott
Fairpoint Communications
Fanny Allen Corporation, Inc.
Farrell Real Estate Co.
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Fieldstone Foundation, Inc.
Firetech
First Baptist Church, Inc.
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
First Unitarian Universalist Society
First United Methodist Church
Fitzgerald Construction, Inc.
FJC
Fletcher Allen Health Care
Floral Artistry By Alison Bucholz Ellis
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
Four Seasons Studios
Frank Carruth Inc.
Franklin County Pediatrics

Fraternal Order of Eagles
Frederick H Tuttle Middle School
FreStyle
Furchgott & Sourdiffe, Inc.
G W Tatro Construction Inc
Gallagher, Flynn & Company, LLP
Gannett Foundation Matching
GE Foundation
Gene Armstrong Excavating
General Dynamics
Gigunda Group, Inc.
Given Primary Care
GOF Ltd.
Goodrich Corporation
Goodrich PAC Match
Goodwill Industries of Northern New England
Grace Jones Richardson Trust
Grace United Methodist Church
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Greater Burlington YMCA
Greater Horizons
Greek Orthodox Philoptochos
Green Mountain Concert Series, Inc.
Green Mountain Montessori School
Green Mountain Video, Inc.
Grippin, Donlan & Roche, PLC
Guiduli Ophthalmic Associates, Inc.
GWR Engineering, P.C.
Hackett, Valine & MacDonald, Inc. Insurance
Halvorson's Upstreet Cafe
Hamblett & Kerrigan, PA
Hannaford Brothers Co.
Head to Head Ministries
Healthy Living Natural Foods Market
Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
Helping Hand Database Design
Her Look Enterprises LLC
Heritage Toyota
Hinesburg Veterinary Assoc., Inc.
Home Resources of Vermont
Hopkins Bookshop
Howard Plant VFW Post 782
HUBER+SUHNER, Inc.
Hudson Valley Paper
Human Resources Consulting Group
Hutchins Roofing Company
IBM Retiree Charitable Campaign
IBM-Computershare
IKON Office Solutions
Independent Block
J&B International Trucks, Inc.
Jane's Trust
Jay Mechanical
Jericho United Methodist Church
Jewish Community Foundation of Metrowest

John's Shoe Shop North
Ken's Auto Repair
Kenneth G Weston Surveying Services, Inc.
Key Foundation
KeyBank
KeyBank National Association
Kids Town
Kiss the Cook
Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 6689
Lake Champlain Chocolates
Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
Laliberte Associates
Lang McLaughry Spera Real Estate
Langrock Sperry & Wool, LLP
Lawrence J. Mattar, Attorney at Law
Lawrence Ribbecke Studios
LCLA to VFW Post 9653
Leonardo's Pizza
Leunig's Bistro
Lewis Excavating LLC
Little Man, Inc.
Llewellyn-Howley, Inc.
Lyman C. Hunt Middle School
Lynch Family Chiropractic, LLC
Macy's Corporate Giving
Main Street Landing Company
Maine Street Stylists
Majestic 10 Cinemas
Majestic Car Rental
Mann & Machine Inc
May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
McKee, Giuliani & Cleveland
McKenzie's Country Classics

Merrill Theatre Corporation
Microtech
Milton Chiropractic Center
Mirabelles, Inc.
Modern Design Furniture
Montpelier Broadcasting, Inc.
Moose Lodge 1618
Mountain Valley Sprinkler Systems, Inc.
Murphy Sullivan Kronk
Myer's Bagel Bakery
MYL ROVER, Ltd.
Mylan Technologies, Inc.
Network For Good
Neuropsychology Associates, LTD
New England Federal Credit Union
New England Floor Covering Company, Inc.
Nicom Coatings Corporation
Nikon Precision Inc.
North Avenue News, Inc.
NorthCountry Federal Credit Union
Northeast Delta Dental
Northern Benefits, Ltd.
Northfield Savings Bank
One-Four-Three Trust
Opportunities Credit Union
Pajama Program
Palmer Insurance Agency, LLC
Parlato Productions
Paul Frank + Collins P.C.
Penny Cluse Cafe
People's United Community Foundation
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
Pfizer Foundation
PKC Corporation

Skylar Wilson: Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Service

In June, our VHCB AmeriCorps Children's Program Specialist Skylar Wilson was recognized for her exemplary service to COTS and its families at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier. She received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Service for her term at COTS as an AmeriCorps member. From the nomination letter, written by COTS Family Shelter staffer Nicole Marshall:

"In her first quarter, Skylar worked with nearly 70 unique volunteers. Most notably, Skylar helped to pilot a partnership with a children's literature class from St. Michael's College, which brought education majors into shelter on a weekly basis to read with children and promote a love of literacy."

After Skylar completed her AmeriCorps year, she joined the COTS Family Shelter staff.



Placemat Lady
 Pochop Financial
 Pomerleau Properties, Inc.
 Post 782 VFW Auxiliary
 Pottery Barn
 PP&D Distribution Service
 Price Chopper Foods
 Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer
 Project Management Institute, CV Chapter
 Psych NP
 Queen City Printers, Inc.
 Ready Funeral Service, Inc.
 Red Room Omnimedia Corp.
 Redstone Commercial Group
 Regular Veterans Association
 Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph
 Renaissance Development Company
 Resort Maps, Inc
 Resource Systems Group, Inc.
 Rhino Foods
 Ri Ra Irish Pub
 Richard L. Wheatley, CPA
 Richmond Congregational Church
 Rick's Catering
 Rieley Realty Inc. DBA Kids Town
 Rock Point School
 Rose Computer Technology Services, Inc.
 Roundtree Construction, Inc.
 RunVermont
 Russ/Wood Decorating, Inc.
 Russell, Blanchard & Dubois
 RWR, Inc.
 Saba Marine LLC
 SAC Fastener Company
 Saint Michael's College
 San Damiano Daily Giving
 Santa Night
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 SecurShred, Inc.
 Select Design
 Selection Unlimited
 Selectronics Corporation
 Shelburne Shipyard, Inc
 Shelburne United Methodist Church
 Shoe Therapy LLC
 Single Step Foundation
 Sisters Of Mercy
 Sisters of Mercy/Tabor Community
 Sixty Farrell Street Associates, LLC
 Small Boat Exchange
 SMC Edmundite Community
 Sodexo Inc & Affiliates
 Soles4Souls
 South Burlington Senior Lunch Program
 Spanked Puppy Pub
 Spectrum Benefits Inc
 St Michael's College – MOVE
 St. Albans Eye Center
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 St. Mark's Church
 Starbucks
 Steel Traders Shipping Ltd.
 Sterling Construction, Inc
 Sterling Hill Productions, Inc.
 Stone Underground Construction
 Stowe Community Church
 Students Together for American Relief
 Subatomic Digital Inc.
 Sugarbush Resort
 Sugarsnap
 SymQuest Group, Inc.
 Systems & Software, Inc.
 Tamarack Services of VT, INC.
 The Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont, Inc
 The Argosy Foundation
 The Bagel Cafe
 The Bay Corporation
 The Clothes Exchange
 The Duke Energy Foundation
 The Eldoes
 The F.H. Adams Company
 The Farmhouse Tap & Grill
 The First Congregational Church of Burlington
 The Gallery of Hair Fashions
 The Hart Foundation
 The New York Community Trust
 The Off Center for The Arts
 The Physician's Computer Company
 The Shoe Shop
 The Wall Doctor
 The Waterwheel Foundation, Inc.
 Timberlane Dental Group
 Tiny Thai
 TONIC
 Town of Charlotte
 Town of Essex
 Town of Hinesburg
 Town of Jericho
 Town of Shelburne
 Town of St. George
 Town of Underhill
 Town of Williston
 Training, Marketing & Technology, Inc
 Transitional Services for Youth & Families
 Travel Leaders
 TRD Design
 Turrell Fund
 Turtle Fur Company
 Twenty Joy Drive Associates, LLC
 Twincraft
 UBS Employee Giving Programs
 Underhill Central School
 Unicorn
 Unilever United States Foundation, Inc.
 United Professions AFT-VT
 United Way
 United Way of Chittenden County
 UVM Athletic Department
 VA Center For Acquisition Innovation
 Verilux, Inc.
 Verizon Foundation
 Vermont Catholic Charities
 Vermont Children's Trust Foundation
 Vermont Coffee Company
 Vermont Community Foundation
 Vermont Federal Credit Union
 Vermont Information Consortium
 Vermont Inspection Services, INC
 Vermont Lake Monsters
 Vermont Moving and Storage
 Vermont Paint Co.
 Vermont Pure Springs
 Vermont State Guard Air Wing
 Vermont Technical College
 Vermont Teddy Bear Factory
 Vermont Zen Center
 Vertek Corporation
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 758
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6689
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7823
 VHB Pioneer
 Vietnam Veterans of America, Chittenden
 County, Ch829
 Vintage Jewelers
 Von Bargaen's Jewelry, LLC
 VVA Chapter 926
 W.G. Russell Supply Corp
 W.R. Berkley Corporation Charitable
 Foundation
 Wake Robin
 Walmart
 Walsh & Monaghan, LLP
 WB Mason
 WCAX TV
 Weinheimer and Associates, P.C.
 Wellspring Learning, Inc.
 Westphalen Photography, Inc.
 Westwood Youth Soccer
 White's Christmas Tree Farm
 Willard Street Inn
 Williston Federated Church
 Winding Brook Home Owners Association
 Women's Fellowship
 Woodbridge Buick GMC
 Wow Toyz
 Yankee Tattoo
 Zachary's Pizza
 Zinnia, Inc.
 Zonta Club of Burlington



**COMMITTEE ON
TEMPORARY SHELTER**

PO Box 1616
Burlington, VT 05402-1616
802-864-7402
www.cotsonline.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 896
Burlington, VT

Mark your calendars

For complete details, please visit:
www.cotsonline.org

Phonathon

November 28-December 1
December 5-7

The Coolest Lunch

December 14

Candlelight Vigil

December 21

Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

February 8, 2012

COTS Walk

May 6, 2012

Miles for a Mission

Interested in running in this year's KeyBank Vermont City Marathon for COTS? If you are a runner and want to also raise money to help provide shelter and services, contact Becky at beckyh@cotsonline.org or (802) 540-3084, Ext. 204, for more details.



Want to make a pledge or volunteer at the Phonathon?

The COTS annual Phonathon gets under way Nov. 28. Volunteers call COTS supporters to thank them for their past donations and ask them to consider a gift again this holiday season.

We are grateful to presenting sponsor, NPI, for generously supporting our largest annual fundraiser. Burlington Telecom also made an in-kind gift made an in-kind gift of 15 additional phone lines for this event.



Interested in volunteering for the Phonathon, as a caller or in the mailroom, at our new facility, 95 North Ave.? Please call Nicole at 540-3084, Ext. 207, or email her at nicolem@cotsonline.org. We need 50 volunteers from 5:30 to 9 p.m. each night: Nov. 28-Dec. 1, and Dec. 5-7. Thank you again for your help!

City Market Tree Sale

82 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington

City Market plans to once again generously sell fresh balsam trees from Craftsbury to benefit COTS. Trees are expected to arrive Dec. 7, with sales continuing until all trees are sold.



All trees cost \$30, and proceeds benefit COTS! "Elves" are needed to help with the holiday sale. Find out more about how to volunteer and to sign up for a shift at www.citymarketcoop.com.