



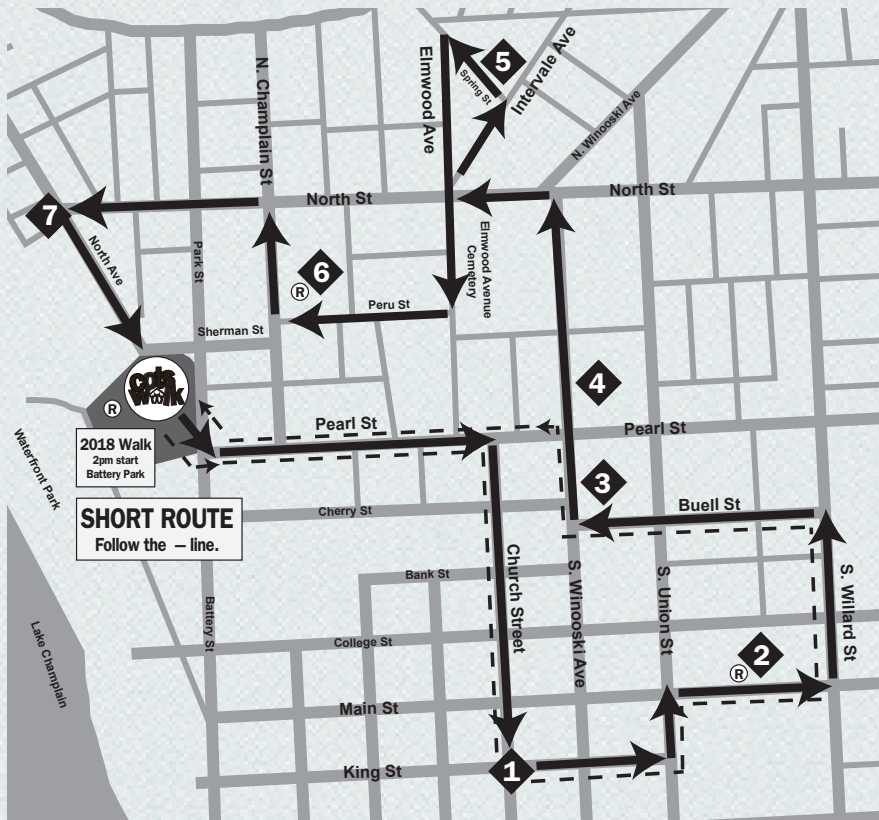
COTS

— PASSPORT —

PRESENTED BY:



National Life
Group®



Map of COTS Programs

PO Box 1616, Burlington VT ♦ (802) 864-7402 ♦ www.cotsonline.org

- 1** **Waystation and The Wilson**
 (187 Church St.: Year-round Program Shelter & Permanent Housing. This is the first building COTS purchased in the early 1980s.)
 - 5** **St. John's Hall**
 (184 Elmwood Ave.: Permanent Housing opened in 1991.)
 - 2** **Main Street Family Shelter**
 (Emergency Shelter for 10 families opened in 2002.)
 - 6** **Firehouse Family Shelter** (walk-by)
 (Emergency Shelter for 5 families opened in 1988.)
 - 3** **First Congregational Church of Burlington**
 (38 S. Winooski Ave.: Where COTS Walk first started in 1990. This is a community partner site, not a COTS program space.)
 - 7** **COTS Main Facility**
 (newly renovated in 2017)
 (95 North Ave.: Housing Resource Center, Daystation, family & single adult services, COTS administrative and development offices.)
 - 4** **Smith House** (walk-by)
 (30-32 N. Winooski Ave.: Transitional housing opened in 2002.)
- (R) Restrooms



COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY SHELTER

The Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) is the largest service provider for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Vermont. COTS is a private nonprofit, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

MISSION STATEMENT: COTS provides emergency shelter, services, and housing for people who are homeless or marginally housed in Vermont. COTS advocates for long-term solutions to end homelessness.

OUR CORE VALUES: We believe: in the value and dignity of every human life; that housing is a fundamental right; and that emergency shelter is not the solution to homelessness.

OUR STORY: In the fall of 1982, amid a recession and high unemployment, a group of concerned citizens in Burlington, Vermont, set out to help those who had lost their homes and needed a safe, warm place to stay. On December 24, 1982, with temperatures below freezing, COTS opened its doors with two volunteers welcoming anyone who needed shelter. Since then, COTS programs and services have evolved to meet immediate needs, while also developing and implementing innovative long-term strategies to prevent and end homelessness. Today, we are a nationally recognized nonprofit that serves more than 2,400 people each year through shelter, services, housing, and prevention outreach – all made possible through generous community support.



WAYSTATION/THE WILSON

187 and 189 Church Street, Burlington



HISTORY: Built 1815. The Wilson, a Federal-style building, was originally home to the Mills brothers, politically active printing and publishing tycoons. When the street level was lowered in the late 1800s, the original basement became the first floor, with a new basement constructed below. This explains the unusual appearance of the former hotel, with the original main entrance leading out onto the front porch roof.

THE WILSON: COTS purchased **the Wilson** in 1984 and converted the building into permanent housing for low-income and formerly homeless individuals. The building has a manager's apartment, plus 22 single-resident occupancy units with shared kitchen and bathrooms.



THE WAYSTATION: The building also houses COTS' Waystation, our emergency shelter:

- **Emergency shelter:** COTS' year-round program shelter has 36 beds – 28 in the men's dorm and 8 in the women's dorm. This shelter is for single adults age 18 and older. The modest space has multiple bathrooms, laundry facilities, and a communal family room.
- **Services:** Guests in the Waystation work with COTS staff on housing, savings, and employment goals.
- **Hours:** Open and staffed 6:15-8 a.m., 365 days a year

HOW TO HELP:

Email volunteer@cotsonline.org for opportunities.

- **Adults:** Deep cleaning, donation organizing
- **Children:** Organize a drive for Wish List items, such as brand-new twin sheets, towels, blankets, pillows; toiletries (razors, shampoo, soap, feminine hygiene products).



HISTORY: Mark Rice built this house in 1806; early histories note that Rice used the basement to store goods during the War of 1812 and that Rice was a member of the Underground Railroad, sheltering people escaping slavery. Additions to the building were added in 1850 and 2002. COTS purchased the building in 2002 from the YWCA, which had owned and operated the facility since 1963.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM:

- **Emergency shelter:** COTS' year-round program shelter can host up to 10 families with children. The shared common spaces include kitchen, six bathrooms, dining room, family room, laundry area, and play room. The backyard includes play area and raised vegetable gardens.
- **Services:** Guests in the family shelter work with COTS staff on housing, savings, and employment goals. Our COTS Children Education Advocate helps parents connect children with early educational enrichment, quality child care, after-school and summer programs, and tutors. A VYDC AmeriCorps serves in shelter, focusing on health, nutrition, and wellness. We have a healthy snack and meal program for children, as well as a literacy initiative to promote reading.
- **Hours:** Open for guests 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

HOW TO HELP: Email volunteer@cotsonline.org for opportunities.

- **Adults:** "Book Buddies," activities with children
- **Children:** Organize a drive for special family activities, such as movie or bowling passes, gift certificates to restaurants, bookstores, and recreational activities.





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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON

38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington



The **First Congregational Church of Burlington** is one of COTS' longtime community partners – and the place where the *first* COTS Walk started in 1990. The COTS Walk was co-founded by Lucy Samara, Director of Outreach Ministries at First Congregational, with Gail Anderson to raise awareness in our community about homelessness. With the words of Phil Collins' song "Another Day in Paradise," the first Walkers embarked on a journey through downtown Burlington, following the path a person who is homeless might travel to connect with COTS' shelters and services.

Members of First Congregational Church continue to actively volunteer at COTS and throughout the community. They partner with Joint Urban Ministry Program (JUMP), Small Potatoes, and other service providers to support people in our community. First Church also hosts the COTS Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in the fall. The church also offers:



- **The Possibility Shop:** Located on the lower level of the church and managed by volunteers, the Shop has kept clothing, household items and much more out of landfills by offering a way for them to be re-used and recycled. Donations and volunteers welcomed. Learn more: firstchurchburlington.org; (802) 862-5010, Ext. 109



SMITH HOUSE

30-32 North Winooski Avenue, Burlington

4



HISTORY: The Smith House, built in 1899, is a two-story Greek Revival-style building. An addition was added to the rear of the structure before COTS acquired the building in 2002, a donation from the First United Methodist Church of Burlington.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM:

- **Housing:** The Smith Houses provides seven single-resident occupancy units of transitional housing with shared kitchen/dining, living area, and two bathrooms. The Smith House also provides permanent housing through two one-bedroom apartments with kitchen and bath. A residential manager also lives on site.
- **Services:** Guests in the transitional housing work with COTS staff on long-term housing goals, including rebuilding credit and rental histories.

HISTORY: Canal Street Veterans Housing, which opened in 2011, was constructed by COTS, in partnership with Housing Vermont, through a VA grant and public and private funding.

CANAL STREET VETERANS HOUSING*

120 West Canal Street, Winooski

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM:

- **Housing:** The multi-story facility in Winooski features four floors with 16 units of two-year transitional housing for formerly homeless veterans and their families. Each fully-furnished apartment has its own kitchen and bathroom. There are an additional 12 units of permanent affordable housing.
- **Services:** A full-time program coordinator and residential manager are located on site. A program suite features a community kitchen, family room, and bathroom. Gardens are also available for veterans on- and off-site. COTS staff work with veterans on housing, employment, financial, and educational goals, as well as connecting them with resources to address other challenges, including mental and physical health needs.

****This site is not included on the COTS Walk.***



ST. JOHN'S HALL

184 Elmwood Avenue, Burlington

5

PLACE
BADGE
HERE



HISTORY: Built in 1895, St. John's Hall was originally a social club and bingo hall. In 1988, COTS' then executive director, Sr. Lucille Bonvouloir, proposed purchasing and remodeling the run-down building. In 1990, renovations began, transforming the space into permanent housing for low-income and formerly homeless individuals. In 1991, COTS welcomed the first residents of St. John's Hall. In 1992, COTS received the Maxwell Award for Excellence from the Fannie Mae Foundation for developing St. John's Hall.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM:

- **Housing:** St. John's Hall has 22 single-resident occupancy (SRO) rooms and four one-bedroom apartments with kitchens and baths. Common space on the second floor includes shared kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, and living and dining areas.
- **Services:** A COTS residential manager lives on site.



In 2007, COTS hosted a re-dedication of St. John's Hall to thank Sr. Lucille Bonvouloir (pictured at left with Rita Markley), who had the vision of how to transform St. John's Hall into housing.



FIREHOUSE FAMILY SHELTER

HISTORY: Built as a firehouse with space for a hose cart, two horses, and six firefighters, the 1899 structure was renovated by COTS in 1988 and became the first emergency shelter for families in our community. (The original fire pole is still in the building, though it is blocked – so no sliding down it!)

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM:

- **Emergency shelter:** COTS' year-round program shelter can host up to five families with children. The shared common spaces include kitchen/dining area, 3.5 bathrooms, laundry area, upstairs family room, and main floor play room.
- **Services:** Guests in the family shelter work with COTS staff on housing, savings, and employment goals.
- **Hours:** Open for guests 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

HOW TO HELP: Email volunteer@cotsonline.org for opportunities.

- **Adults:** "Book Buddies," activities with children
- **Children:** Have a "potluck for COTS" and ask your friends to donate to the "cabin fever" fund, which help families with unexpected needs not covered by COTS' budget.

BURLINGTON

COTS WALK

PLACE
BADGE
HERE

VERMONT

7

95 NORTH AVENUE (COTS MAIN PROGRAM FACILITY)

95 North Avenue, Burlington



ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

COTS programs are co-located with housing at 95 North Avenue.

HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER (HRC)

- **Homelessness Prevention Initiative:** This program, launched in 2008, is designed to help families and individuals avert the crisis of homelessness entirely. We also work with households to return to permanent housing more quickly.
- **Services:** The HRC provides a variety of supports and services to stabilize households in crisis, including rental and mortgage arrearages, security deposit assistance, and short-term subsidies.
- **Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; call (802) 864-7402.

ACROSS COTS PROGRAMS

Our goal is to end homelessness through prevention. We incorporate this philosophy throughout our work. At COTS, we take a “person-centered” approach to our services. COTS staff, across all programs, work with guests to achieve housing goals through evidenced-based and strengths-based practices, including Motivational Interviewing and Trauma-Informed Care strategies.

- **Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

HOW TO HELP: Email volunteer@cotsonline.org for other opportunities.

- **Adults:** Lunch is served daily, through donations and the help of volunteers. Volunteers also help with job readiness preparation and greeting guests.
- **Children:** Organize a drive for canned goods or other nonperishable food for the Daystation. You could also collect brand-new socks, bus passes, or toiletries for guests.



HISTORY: In 1893, the 95 North Avenue building opened with Frank Riley running a grocery store at this address. In 1902, George Saiger opened Saiger's Department Store and grocery on the first floor with two or three apartments located on the second floor. In 1928, Alex Colodny purchased the building, running the popular Colodny's Market and state's first "supermarket" for more than 50 years. In 1979, Burlington College purchased the building and opened its doors. In 2010, COTS purchased the property with a vision of creating a new type of community anchor – one that provided services, support, and housing for people facing the crisis of homelessness.

In January 2016, COTS began extensive renovations on the historic structure, including a new addition constructed in the rear. As part of the project, done in partnership with Housing Vermont, a new permanent home

for the Daystation was built on the first floor. Also, 14 affordable apartments were created to the second floor. Other updates included making COTS' program spaces for homelessness prevention, and family and adult services more accessible and far more energy-efficient. An elevator was added, too.

The renovation restored the historic portion of the building to its original 1893 look. During construction, part of the building's original tin ceiling was discovered under a drop ceiling. This was restored and is now visible in the COTS' main floor waiting area. COTS and Housing Vermont hosted an official ribbon-cutting event in April 2017 with Congressman Peter Welch, Governor Phil Scott, Mayor Miro Weinberger, and many other supporters, partners and community leaders. The project was made possible through public and private funding sources.

DAYSTATION

• **Daytime center for homeless adults:** The original Daystation opened in 1988. This program, which offers people a safe and warm refuge from the streets, is designed to connect people with services, resources, and housing.

• **Services:** The Daystation staff welcome guests, connects them with COTS housing support services and community resources. A noon-time meal is served daily. Community partners, including the VA, meet with guests and

provide services. Workshops are offered on job readiness, as well. Guests also receive mail and messages. Toiletries, socks, and other needs are distributed through this program. A volunteer provides haircuts. The Daystation also includes commercial-grade washer and dryer to launder guests' clothing, showers for guests, and computers, among other necessities.

• **Hours:** Open and staffed 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 365 days a year

PERMANENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

14 apartments: There are 12 studios and two one-bedroom units, each with their own kitchen and bathroom. Laundry facilities, storage, and shared community space also available. Seven of the apartments are fully-furnished, service-enriched units that receive private rental assistance through a COTS internal subsidy.



cots WALK



SAVE THE DATE:
30TH ANNUAL COTS WALK
MAY 5, 2019



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