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## **COTS Embraces New Partner in Fight Against Homelessness**

**DETROIT, MI** – April 3, 2009 – The Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) is proud to partner with Gretchen C. Valade at their annual event ImaginAide – *Artists Against Homelessness*. Local philanthropist and Chairman of Carhartt, Inc., Valade lives in the suburbs but has always been an advocate for the city of Detroit. She feels strongly about supporting Detroit's people and maintaining the organizations that provide for basic needs during these very challenging times.

Valade will accomplish both of these goals by supporting the ImaginAide event on April 25 and COTS' mission to help homeless people help themselves. "There is no reason for anyone, especially children, to be living on the streets without a roof over their head," says Valade. "COTS provides the programs and services necessary to help stop the cycle of homelessness. I am happy and honored to be associated with such a worthy cause."

The Detroit News recently named Valade as a 2008 Michiganian of the Year, particularly noting her role in saving and eventually adopting the Detroit International Jazz Festival. Valade views the current challenges in Detroit as an opportunity. "When people ask me where I'm from I say Detroit because I'm really proud of this city," she said. "What happens in Detroit affects all of us whether we live in Grosse Pointe, Troy, or Warren. We really need to support partnerships that help improve Detroit's image. Organizations like COTS are paramount to ensure those improvements." Valade believes that collectively we can transform Detroit's image by featuring the great things happening in the city. COTS CEO, Cheryl P. Johnson agrees with that philosophy and says, "All of us are sure to benefit if we find ways to work together."

COTS premiere fund raising event, ImaginAide will feature a silent auction where guests can bid on beautiful works of art created by local artists and designers. A sit-down dinner, live auction, and live music and dancing will complete the evening. ImaginAide will be held at the Motor City Casino Hotel in downtown Detroit on Saturday, April 25 from 6 pm to 11 pm. Tickets are \$125. For ticket purchase and more information please visit us online at [www.cotsdetroit.org](http://www.cotsdetroit.org) or contact us at 313.831.3777 x 223.

*Founded in 1982, the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) is a private, nonprofit organization that provides emergency shelter; transitional and permanent housing and comprehensive support services for Detroit's homeless population. Its mission is to alleviate homelessness by offering an array of services, which enable people to achieve economic self-sufficiency and decent, affordable housing. COTS provides nearly 50,000 nights of emergency shelter each year.*

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