

## COTS Endowment Launched

New and exciting advances are taking place at COTS as our mission continues to successfully assist more and more homeless people help themselves. This success rate is something that we should all be very proud, however, the need that our mission strives to alleviate continues to increase, as does the level of funds required to keep pace. This means that COTS must adopt and follow new paths in fundraising and in the stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us by our loyal donors. Rising to this challenge, the Development Committee in conjunction with the Board of Directors has taken steps to create the COTS Endowment to secure the future of our invaluable mission. While the decision to create an Endowment is an exciting one and a celebration of the strides COTS has made thus far; we felt it would be valuable to share some of the questions we posed and the answers we sought before moving forward to this next level of mission stability.



*The following is a brief Q&A with our CEO, Cheryl P. Johnson*

**Q** *What is an Endowment and why would COTS need one.*

**A** An endowment is an investment that provides endless support to charitable causes. It's an investment in the future. It's a gift without end creating your legacy. A generous gift made by you for your children and grandchildren in support of our mission to help homeless people help themselves in the future.

Endowments are permanent. They are funds with the requirement that the principal is never spent. The balance in these funds is invested, earning income that is then spent to support our good works in perpetuity.

The loyalty and generosity of our donors has been the very core of our stability and success over the years. Because of this, we can now take steps to secure the future of our mission by beginning the process of establishing and growing an Endowment. An Endowment is a financial account that COTS will establish to receive gifts and legacies from our donors. These gifts will often be "ear-marked" for specific facets of our mission, or designated as funds to produce income for support in general. Statistics and recent economic trends demonstrate that a nonprofit organization intending to pursue the success of its mission into the future must take the steps to create and grow this integral component.

**Q** *So does this mean that donors now give only to the Endowment and not to the Charity.*

**A** Actually, it is the exact opposite. Having an Endowment adds options as to how a donor can support COTS. Donors who really understand and care about the organization are part of the COTS Family, and family always takes care of family. Mom and Dad always provide for their loved ones in their estate plans, but this doesn't stop them from taking care of the current needs of their family and loved ones in the present. It's the same with their COTS family. As federal, state and corporate support of charitable organizations continues to dwindle overall, it is the support of the donor family that will keep the mission of the organization alive and growing.

**Q** *So the Endowment is a way for Donors to make certain that their charity is strong today, tomorrow and well into the Future.*

**A** **Exactly!** The donor is making a "deposit" into COTS bank account, and receiving a charitable income tax deduction for their generosity and continued support.

**Q** *What are the different ways in which a COTS Donor can get involved.*

**A** COTS donors can continue to support our mission as they have always done! The fact that we now have the Endowment simply means that our generous and loyal donors can leave a legacy to COTS for years to come.

**Q** *Can you name a few of the ways I can contribute to the endowment.*

**A** You can make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime? You can make a gift that pays you income for life?

You can preserve your estate for your children and deliver years of income to COTS?

There are other tools that are also available. Our development team can assist you with further questions.

*For more information please contact Lynn Wilhelm, Chief Development Officer at 313.576.0206.*

# COTS SECOND ANNUAL ROCKIN' ROOFTOP BLAST



**Where:** Rooftop of the Courtyard Marriott, Downtown Detroit

**When:** Monday, June 23, 2008  
6:00 pm - midnight  
*In conjunction with the International Freedom Festival*

Fabulous Food & Beverages • Best View in Detroit of the Fireworks  
Great Music • Games • Silent Auction

Purchase tickets online at [www.cotsdetroit.org](http://www.cotsdetroit.org)  
For more information call 313.576.0223

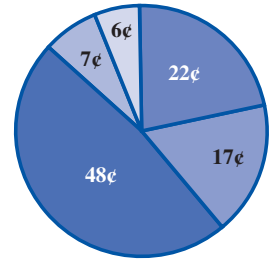
## How COTS Spends Your Dollar

### Program Services

- 48¢ Emergency Shelter
- 22¢ Transitional Housing
- 17¢ Permanent Supportive Housing

### Support Services

- 6¢ Management General
- 7¢ Fund Raising



## A \$25 Donation Can:

- Feed a family of 4 for one day
- Provide a basic computer class for 1 person
- Provide care for 1 child per day
- Help keep the lights on at COTS
- Provide life skill training
- Provide 2 pillows
- Provide 20 diapers
- Provide clean sheets



## Imaginaide: Everyone Deserves a Home

Our annual event, Imaginaide, was the best ever thanks to all of our sponsors, volunteers artists, and attendees. This year our efforts netted COTS \$125,000 to support our mission to help homeless people help themselves! Special thanks go to our event chair, Sandy Rochette. Her team worked diligently to attract over 500 people to attend this spectacular annual event held at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit!



Our generous presenting sponsor, the Suburban Collection, came through for us with flying colors. Their participation was a welcomed bonus for us this year. This new partner to COTS truly understood our efforts and supported our endeavors in a very big way! As always, we value our annual supporters and appreciate their dollars to sponsor Imaginaide through these tough economic times. Our heartfelt thanks



also go out to Platinum Sponsor: GMAC Financial Services; Gold Sponsors: Masco Corporation and Chrysler Foundation\*; Silver Sponsors: LSG Insurance Partners, R.L. Polk & Company, Systems Services and Yazaki; and Corporate Sponsors: Binson's Home Healthcare/Northwood Inc. Conway, Mackenzie & Dunleavy\*, Molina Healthcare, St. John Health and TVS Communication Solutions\*.



*Please mark your calendar for Imaginaide 2009, Saturday, April 18 – See you all next year!*

\*new this year

## WISH LIST

We accept the following Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- **New clothing** and other **new items**
- **Clean used seasonal clothing**

### CHILDREN'S ITEMS

- crayons, watercolor markers
- paint, paintbrushes, finger paints • modeling clay, paste
- children's books
- book bags, school supplies,
- disposable diapers, baby wipes, tissues
- baby powder, lotion, oil, and bath
- new baby bottles
- Pedialite, infant formula
- baby juice, powdered milk, baby food
- baby clothes

### TOILETRIES

- disposable razors, shaving gel
- bars of soap, deodorant, hand lotion
- hair brushes, combs, shampoo
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss
- sanitary napkins, tampons

### LINENS

- towels, washcloths
- twin and full sheet sets • pillows, pillow cases

### CLOTHING (seasonal items only)

- new underclothing (all sizes)
- x-large women's and men's clothing
- coats, shoes, boots

### MISCELLANEOUS

- canned food, non-perishables
- televisions, microwaves • VCRs, videotapes
- small kitchen appliances • vacuum cleaners

### SPONSORS/GIFT CERTIFICATES

- clothing, restaurants, hair/nail salons

**For more information,  
please contact Robyn Smith  
at 313.831.3777 ext. 223**