



Imaginaide:

Everyone deserves a home!



COTS' Annual Event ImaginAide was successful, memorable and profitable thanks to staff, volunteers, sponsors and our very own **"Artists against homelessness!"** This year we netted near \$90,000 to help support our mission.

Systems Services and Yazaki; and Corporate Sponsors St. John Health, Butzel Long, Hylant Group, and R. L. Polk & Co.



Gretchen C. Valade, our Presenting Partner, joined our cause this year. Her generosity and support was instrumental in helping reach our goals. Ms. Valade is a true philanthropic icon in our community and we are thrilled that she has become a new partner in the fight against homelessness.



A fantastic crew of individuals lead by event chair, Sandy Rochette, made the entire experience possible. Her team worked diligently to welcome over 450 attendees at the Motor City Casino Hotel.

Without our sponsors we would not be able to host our event. Thank you's go out to our Platinum Sponsor: GMAC Financial Services; Gold Sponsor: BrassCraft; Silver Sponsors: LSG Insurance Partners,



We look forward to seeing you next year.



Growing Together – Ford Motor Volunteers and COTS Go Green



On May 15th, hundreds from the Ford Volunteer Corps conducted Accelerated Action Day planting flowers and trees, revitalizing parks, expanding community gardens and beautifying the community. "Thanks to the Ford Volunteer Corps, COTS, and next-door neighbor Detroit Central City Community Mental Health (DCC), we now have a beautiful urban garden", says project coordinator and Housing Development Director for COTS, Curtis Smith. With the assistance of "The Greening Of Detroit", a non-profit devoted to urban improvement through environmental leadership, COTS and DCC are growing vegetables and flowers in an otherwise dreary vacant lot.

"The community gardening project will not only put some idle land to use, but it will help feed people in our community," observes COTS Chief Development Officer, Lynn Wilhelm. "We are fortunate that our friends at DCC, our consumers, staff and Ford Volunteers could gather together and pour their collective energies into such a worthwhile endeavor."

THE COURTYARD MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN DETROIT PRESENTS
**COTS THIRD ANNUAL
 ROCKIN' ROOFTOP BLAST**



Where: Rooftop of the Courtyard Marriott, Downtown Detroit

When: Wednesday, June 24, 2009
 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

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
 For more information call 313.576.0223

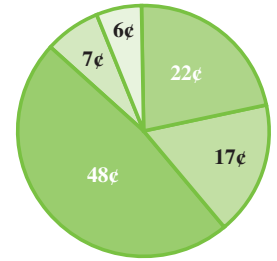
How COTS Spends Your Dollar

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

COTS Endowment

We are proud to introduce COTS' Legacy Society, to honor and recognize individuals who provide for COTS through their estate plans. There are many ways to give a legacy gift to COTS, a Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Lead Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust, a life insurance policy, and naming COTS as a beneficiary on an IRA, CD, a Savings Account or Retirement Plan (401k, 403b).

Members of COTS' Legacy Society have made a commitment to the organizations future, promoting philanthropic values for generations to come. Part of making a legacy gift is the opportunity to choose a method of giving that works best for you. Donors have found that a planned gift, creatively structured to provide tax advantages and life income, can provide an ideal opportunity to support the organization they love, at a higher level than they had thought possible. There are multiple ways to give and many different assets you can use; below we have highlighted the Charitable Gift Annuity.

The following is a brief Q&A with COTS' CEO, Cheryl P. Johnson.

Our Charitable Gift Annuity program is one of many ways to give a gift to us that also benefits you and your family. Through a Charitable Gift Annuity, you will receive a specified rate of return, based on your age at the time the planned gift is created.

Q What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A A charitable gift annuity is a contract between a donor, and COTS. The basis of the contract is to allow the donor to make a gift to us today, while retaining a fixed income amount for life (or lives – husband and wife, etc).

Q How does it work?

A A contract or agreement is presented to the donor(s). The donor will determine the amount that they will gift (minimum amount is set by the charity) and what they will gift (cash or appreciated securities). Customized calculations are prepared to illustrate what the charitable income tax deduction will be for the gift, based upon the following factors:

1. Age or ages of the donors
2. Amount of the gift being made
3. The income tax bracket that the donor is in at the time of the gift

After the contract is signed and funded, COTS will provide the donor with the exact amount agreed upon, until their death.

Q Why should I consider giving this type of gift?

A Planned Giving Programs, such as the Charitable Gift Annuity, allow donors to teach the next generations their values and ethics, the importance of

family, “the value of a dollar”, as well as why COTS is so important to their community. Therefore a generational commitment and financial support bridge can be built and sustained.

We welcome the opportunity to assist you and your advisors in planning a contribution that suits your particular needs. Please contact our Major Gifts and Planned Giving Office at 313.831.3777 ext. 285 for more information..

“Those of us who are lucky enough to have been able to save for our future, thus creating a “personal endowment”, such as an IRA, need to help COTS and other organizations like it, create an organizational endowment to help those truly in need in our society during these difficult times.”

“Using a contribution from our IRAs can help create an endowment for COTS that will be available in good times and in bad times for this important social service organization.”

Harriet & Alvin Saperstein,
 Detroit, Michigan