



PO Box 2744
Petaluma CA 94953

And homeless near a
thousand homes I stood,
And near a thousand tables
pined and wanted food.

- William Wordsworth

Help Us Meet Our Match!

COTS is excited to announce the
return of our Holiday Match
Challenge!

This year, an anonymous donor has
challenged our community to raise
\$100,000 by **#GivingTuesday**, and
they will match it.

Will you help us reach our goal?

Let's Make a
Difference
Together!



FALL NEWS
2024



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A Note From Chris

Dear COTS Supporters and Friends,

It's an exciting time at COTS—we're growing! We're thrilled to introduce three new programs that expand our impact: Recuperative Care, Keep People Housed, and expanded services in Santa Rosa. Each initiative builds on our expertise, ensuring we continue offering the high-quality services we're known for, while addressing urgent community needs. You can learn more about these programs in this newsletter.

This growth is closely aligned with our strategic plan. We're not just expanding—we're doing it thoughtfully. By replicating what we do best, COTS delivers compassionate care and helps individuals on their journey to stability and independence. This approach allows us to meet the evolving needs of the communities we serve while staying true to our mission.

These new offerings are already proving to be effective, transforming lives by providing the essential care and stability that our clients need. Whether it's offering a safe place to heal, preventing homelessness, or extending our support to a new community, each program has been designed to make a real, lasting difference.

Our staff's dedication and professionalism make this growth possible. They are deeply committed to serving the unhoused community, ensuring each new program is launched with care and expertise. COTS collaborates with experts and follows best practices to avoid mistakes, so our programs can be successful from the start and have the greatest impact.

Together, these programs reflect our commitment to creating a community where everyone has a place to call home. We're excited to see the positive changes ahead and grateful for your continued partnership and support.

Warm regards,



Chris Cabral



COTS Is Growing

Keep People Housed

COTS is proud to be the Lead Agency for Sonoma County's groundbreaking Keep People Housed pilot program! This initiative, a first in our region, is a collaboration between key partners: Sonoma County, the City of Santa Rosa, the City of Petaluma, and All Home.

The program will distribute \$3.9 million over two years, uniting top social service providers across Sonoma County. COTS will lead, partnering with Reach for Home in Northern Sonoma County, West County Community Services in West Sonoma County, Community Support Network in Santa Rosa, Home First in Sonoma Valley, and our own team in Southern Sonoma County. Legal Aid of Sonoma County will also provide vital legal services. Each provider was chosen for their dedication and proven ability to serve our communities.

The Keep People Housed program is a critical tool to prevent homelessness in Sonoma County and COTS is committed to ensuring every provider has the resources to keep households securely housed. We will maintain reporting standards, ensure compliance, and deliver financial support effectively.

Our dedication to the well-being of individuals and families in Petaluma and Southern Sonoma County is stronger than ever, and we are excited about the expanded services this program will bring.

Santa Rosa

In 2024, Sonoma County experienced an increased demand for homelessness supports in the Santa Rosa area. Responding to this pressing need, COTS has successfully expanded its impact by adding 14 units of permanent supportive housing (PSH) in Santa Rosa, CA, surpassing a total of 100 COTS-supported units.

The introduction of permanent supportive housing has proven to be a game-changer in combatting homelessness, with **less than 5% of people in PSH returning to homelessness**. By offering individuals and families a pathway to permanent stability, self-sufficiency, and hope, it has become one of the most effective tools in the fight against homelessness. COTS takes pride in the profound impact it is making on those we serve and the community at large through these innovative approaches to housing.

Moreover, COTS has launched a robust Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention program in partnership with Catholic Charities to serve individuals and families throughout Santa Rosa. This program provides essential support, including emergency rental assistance, housing search and placement assistance, help with transportation and groceries, and ongoing therapy services for individuals, couples, and families.

Expanded Hope and Healing

Thank You To Our
Recuperative Care
Expansion Donors:

Fatima Lassar

The Church of Jesus
Christ of the Latter-
Day Saints

Mark Quattrocchi and
Tina Kelly

Summit State Bank

Pat and Olga Barnes

Mike and Renee Detloff

Bill Gabbert

Mike and Karen Kasper

In early 2023, COTS began working to secure funding for a major capital expansion project at our main Mary Isaak Center (MIC) campus in Petaluma.

The goal? Expand our effective and in-demand Recuperative Care (RC) program. Donors from across the county came together to fund this project which will increase capacity in RC by over 200% annually. COTS' RC program will now be housed in the Lassar Health and Wellness Center located at MIC.

Recuperative Care provides services, meals, and a

healing environment for individuals experiencing homelessness as they transition out of the hospital. Individuals not only have a safe place to heal but begin working on a housing plan on day one.

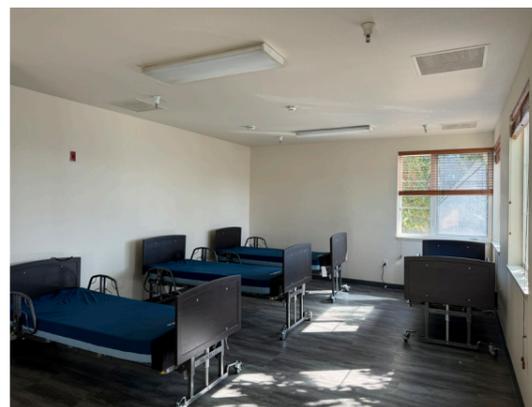
An impressive 85% of RC clients do not return to the streets.

The project was completed in September with residents expected to move in November. Our team is excited about the increased opportunity to transform lives and strengthen our community.



Maureen, COTS' COO, Nadya, COTS' RC Specialist, and Pat, COTS' Lead RC Specialist celebrate the furnishing of the expanded RC wing.

As one of the largest shelter providers in Sonoma County, COTS is dedicated to ensuring equitable access to shelter and housing opportunities for the people we serve. We are excited about the progress we have made in the past year and are looking forward to continuing our support for those in our community who need it the most.



Pictured above: a client space during and after construction.

A Journey of Resilience

Florence, 58, grew up in Novato, California, and became the first in her family to earn a college degree, focusing on policy and politics. Her impactful internships—including a congressional role and work with a local labor union—led her to a fulfilling career in social services, where she served as the Director of Social Services for several affordable housing sites in Sonoma County. In this role, she advocated for the homeless and developed programs to support those in need.

In 2023, Florence faced unexpected challenges when she lost her housing due to ongoing medical issues. Chronic pain from scoliosis left her unable to work, and navigating the disability application process proved difficult, with multiple denials. Reaching out for help was a daunting step, but when she connected with COTS, she was looked in the eyes and met with compassion and respect, receiving not just shelter but dignity. Starting her journey in the Mary Isaak Center's shelter,

Florence soon required a hip replacement. After her surgery, she was transferred back to COTS's Recuperative Care (RC) program in August 2023. There, she received physical therapy and multiple other necessary surgeries to restore her health and mobility.

In the RC program, Florence found strength in shared experiences and unwavering support from the COTS team, who advocated tirelessly on her behalf. Even during her darkest days, she felt seen as a whole person, not just another statistic.



“ I mean, [Recuperative Care] caught me before I fell, and I don't know where I would be without it. I am so thankful.”

Today, as Florence approaches stable housing, she is filled with hope. COTS has not only provided her with a roof but also restored her sense of self-worth, proving that with compassion and determination, even the toughest challenges can be overcome.

**Editor's note: Just two days after our conversation with Florence, she received wonderful news—her application for permanent housing has been accepted! We are ecstatic to see her take this next step on her journey.*

Agents For Change

COTS is pleased to announce Agents for Change. This program invites compassionate and community-minded real estate professionals to partner with COTS in creating a lasting impact for our homeless population.

As an Agent for Change, realtors not only demonstrate their commitment to building a better community but also gain a unique marketing opportunity to showcase their philanthropy.

Thank You To Our Participating Members:

- Bill Gabbert – Century 21 Epic
- Evan Kishineff – Century 21 Epic
- Karl Bundesen – Century 21 Epic
- Tony Lander – Century 21 Epic
- Jim Lanatti – Century 21 Epic
- Marsha Harris – Century 21 Epic
- Doug Hecker – Coldwell Banker Realty
- Judith Allewalt – Coldwell Banker Realty



Interested in being a part of this program like these philanthropic leaders? Visit our website to learn more:

<https://cots.org/donate/cots-agents-for-change/>

Making The Holidays Brighter

Having heard about COTS from other parents and finding the volunteer schedule to be flexible, Michelle and her son, Dominic, signed up for their first volunteer shift at COTS on the afternoon before Thanksgiving Day 2023.

Surrounded by many volunteers, Michelle and Dominic began working on various tasks to help prepare for the next day's

holiday. Facing a massive amount of food donated by multiple organizations, an immense amount of prep work, and a large crowd waiting for meals, Michelle and Dominic did many tasks that directly benefitted the people in their community.

While every part of the work was rewarding, the experience of serving meals stood out to Dominic

and Michelle alike. Dominic saw so many people coming in to get a hot meal and socialize with others at the tables; and they looked, talked, and acted just like him. The diversity drove home that, anyone could need help one day.

Join them in volunteering to help make a difference in your community.

How You Can Get Involved This Holiday Season

WELCOME HOME BASKETS

Moving is stressful for anyone, but can be especially hard when you have been without a home for a while. Many of our participants moving into their new home don't have basic household supplies- and are limited on cash to purchase these items. These Welcome Home Baskets are a life-saver for these families and individuals as they get back on their feet.

VOLUNTEER WITH COTS

COTS is always in need of extra hands around the holidays to help prepare and serve meals. We need the most help on weekends and afternoons. Whether as an individual or a group, we'd love to have you join us!

To learn more about volunteer opportunities contact Diana, COTS' Engagement Specialist, at volunteers@cots.org or by calling 707.765.6530 x 136.

DONATE TO OUR WISHLIST

During our 2023-2024 fiscal year, 109,877 meals were served to those most vulnerable in our community.

Help give those individuals hope for the holidays by supporting our kitchen through our holiday wishlist or volunteering in the kitchen!



Support COTS Today!

ways to give



ONLINE, CASH, OR CHECK



APPRECIATED SECURITIES & STOCKS



LEAVE A LEGACY



MATCHING GIFTS



MONTHLY GIVING

To learn more about giving to COTS, visit cots.org/ways-to-give, or contact Erin Krueger, Director of Development, at development@cots.org or 707.765.6530 x126