



THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY SHELTER HOMEFRONT

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FALL 2019

Housing challenges

These are the key issues that put households at risk for homelessness:

LOW VACANCY: The rental vacancy rate as of July 1 in Chittenden County decreased to 1.8% from its 20-year peak of 2.5% in 2017. This vacancy rate continues to fall far behind the national average of 4.8%. Our Fair Market Rent (FMR) area is more expensive than 96% of other FMR areas in the United States.

HIGH RENTS: The 2019 Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Burlington-South Burlington is \$1,341 a month, which requires a renter to earn \$53,123 annually (\$25.54/hourly) to pay the recommended 30% or less on housing. Many households, particularly working families with young children, allocate more than 50% of their income to housing costs, putting them one paycheck away from financial disaster.

HOUSING WAGE: The recent annual report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition (VAHC), "Out of Reach: the High Cost of Housing," found that a Vermont worker needs to earn \$18.18 per hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment. This figure is known as the Housing Wage, the hourly wage a household must earn while working full time to afford a decent apartment at Fair Market Rent, while spending no more than 30% of their income on housing expenses. The average Vermont renter, however, actually only earns \$13.40 per hour.



DAWN I PROLITO

Nicole Kubon (left), COTS Housing Resource Center Coordinator, and Sophia Senning, the Assistant HRC Coordinator, at COTS' main office, located at 95 North Avenue, Burlington.

A decade of solutions COTS Housing Resource Center prevents homelessness

The Housing Resource Center began as an idea: Many of the people who became homeless started off having a home. Perhaps, we thought, we could prevent them from becoming homeless by helping them keep it.

In 2008, COTS raised \$250,000 in private funding to "prevent people from becoming homeless." Then, the Great Recession began – the mortgage crisis, the stock market crash, the banking collapse. The job losses soon followed, and no banks were lending anyone money. The newly launched Housing Resource Center had never been so needed. We had money – and we began using it to help individuals and families who were about to fall into homelessness.

That first year, COTS helped more than 300 households avert homelessness through financial support and services. Now a decade later, this innovative and successful prevention program, through

private and public funding, has kept thousands of people off the streets.

The HRC program helps stabilize about 400 at-risk households with short-term services and an average financial assist about \$1,000 each year. Many of the people we help at the HRC are living on tight budgets in an expensive housing market. The loss of a job or cut in hours, a family breakup, or a health care crisis can create a cascade that jeopardizes their housing.

We help people in a variety of ways. In addition to helping people with rental and mortgage arrearages, we provide short-term subsidies, utility and moving cost assistance. We offer intensive prevention, housing retention, housing search, and landlord liaison services.

And, we're always working to make them better. "We have the tools, and I'm looking forward to sharpening them" in

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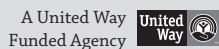
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SOLUTIONS...continued from page 1

the coming year, said Nicole Kubon, the HRC Coordinator.

We help people like “Annie,” a working single mom whose high utilities – electric heat and hot water – plus negative impact of the “benefits cliff” had caused her to fall behind on her rent. (The “benefits cliff” refers to the way public support, including such things as child care subsidies and 3SquaresVT, can be phased out quickly when a family’s household earnings have increased but end up inadvertently disrupting a family whose income has not yet reached self-sufficiency and long-term stability.) Through a creative mix of our services and resources, we helped “Annie” develop a repayment plan with her landlord and with her utilities. We also aided her in locating and moving to a more affordable and sustainable apartment.

Their stories often have similarities – but every person and situation is different.

“I am consistently impressed by the level of commitment my team have to the population they serve,” Nicole said. “Their passion, integrity, resilience, and ingenuity are unique. ... I am humbled by their work.”

Our risk-guaranty fund, COMPASS (COMPrehensive Assistance toward Self-Sufficiency), was designed to help people with poor credit and lacked positive landlord references. This program combines a financial guaranty to the landlord for up to 18 months with ongoing support services by the HRC staff. The guaranty will cover any missed rent, damages or legal fees, if needed. When COMPASS was launched, it was originally budgeted to help 15 families. Happily, though, the payouts from the risk pool fund have been so few that the same money is continuing to serve families now six years later.

Our Affordable Housing Specialist provides housing search services to guests in our shelters as well as community referrals. This role also has an “emphasis on building relationships with landlords,” said Sophia Senning, the HRC Assistant Coordinator. In addition to helping families find housing in a tight market, the housing search program has also expanded landlords’ understanding of what the HRC can do and does to help.

“I am not always able to provide the answers (landlords) are looking for, but being available to listen or direct them to other services is always appreciated,” Sophia said.

COTS is a housing-focused organization, and we incorporate a prevention philosophy throughout the agency. As such, COTS integrated our housing navigation services under the Housing Resource Center a few years ago. This has allowed for more collaborative and cohesive services, as well as creative solutions to tackle housing barriers. Housing navigators work with people who have become homeless move more quickly back into permanent housing.

What we learn through the HRC informs and transforms our future efforts. Jonathan Farrell, our COTS Facility Director, led the HRC for more than five years. “My tenure at the HRC has directly influenced my understanding of the people who live in COTS permanent housing – programs which I now oversee,” Jonathan said. “(The HRC) has been an influence in the creation of our COTS Housing Support Team, with members from the HRC, Daystation, and Facilities team who help select and support those who move out of the shelter into a permanent COTS housing unit, and beyond.”

NEW HOUSING PARTNERSHIP IN WINOOSKI

Summit Properties’ Casavant Overlook welcomed its first residents in September. Summit partnered with COTS to offer service-enriched housing in four of the affordable units for people who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. This new facility in Winooski has 39 apartments, with 27 designated as affordable. Winooski has the highest rate of renter households and more affordable housing per capita than any other community in the state.

Main Street Makeover

Family shelter kitchen, dining and cooking program transformed



Wally Perkins

Wally Perkins, a longtime teacher from Massachusetts, moved to Vermont with her husband, Peter, when she retired. We are so lucky she did.

For more than a decade, she brought her expertise and experience to her volunteer work with children and parents in family shelter. She provided educational support and ultimately laid the foundation for what would become the COTS Children's Program today.

"The world is mine and yours to share. How can we make it better?" she wrote a few months before she passed away in 2018.

Those words will be added to a plaque that will soon hang in the newly renovated – and newly renamed – kitchen and dining space at the Main Street Family Shelter. We are honoring Wally's enduring legacy by renaming the space in her memory.

This summer, the worn and well-used space received a much-needed makeover. Like the renovation to the Waystation, our overnight shelter for single adults, in 2018, this transformation followed the principles of Trauma-Informed Design. These included using cool colors, improving lighting and layout, and incorporating natural elements.

The new space is welcoming, flexible in use, and dignified. To learn more about Wally, the renovation, or Trauma-Informed Design, please visit our blog at www.cotsonline.org.

Kids in the Kitchen

COTS received a grant from the **Joy in Childhood Foundation** to revitalize our longstanding healthy snack and meal program for children in shelter. The newly renamed **Kids in the Kitchen** program debuted this summer.

We partnered with **Vermont FEED (Food Education Every Day)**, a farm-to-table project of **NOFA-VT** and **Shelburne Farms**, to provide guidance, which included training for staff and volunteers as well as recipe and resource recommendations. The program incorporates recipes from Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables (jsyfruitveggies.org), which are designed to be simple, healthy, and budget-friendly. Volunteers and staff cook with children of all ages at both COTS family shelters – Main Street and Firehouse – throughout the month.

Our Kids in the Kitchen cooking calendar was planned to coordinate with the growing schedule of our raised garden beds, which were planted and help maintained by volunteers.

The program also incorporates field trips, such as a late



BECKY HOIT

The Main Street Family Shelter dining area received a Trauma-Informed Design makeover this summer.

summer trip to Shelburne Farms, and guest speakers. At an "Ice Cream Taste Test" hosted by **Ben & Jerry's** Flavor Guru Eric Ferdette and Burlington Scoop Shop Manager **Jake Lavalley** and featuring frozen yogurt, sorbet and new non-dairy flavors, Eric talked about the science and research behind developing new flavors with children and parents in family shelter this summer.

Kids in the Kitchen aims to help families discover new ways to eat healthy and save money, not just in shelter but when they move to their new homes. It is part of COTS' larger overall Children's Program in family shelter, which includes educational enrichment, reading and computer literacy, social and emotional skill building, and academic tutoring.

Church Street creates Positive Change

The **Church Street Marketplace** gave its collection boxes a facelift this year: The "Positive Change" campaign was unveiled in May with the newly branded boxes in front of Stephen & Burns and Kiss the Cook.

The original collection boxes debuted six years ago and raised more than \$17,000.

"With our two new collection boxes sporting bright colors and new graphics, we believe the 'Positive Change' program will increase awareness about homelessness in our community and raise more funds for COTS," said Ron Redmond, the Marketplace's executive director.

The campaign has another new feature: Donations can be made remotely anytime via a **Text-to-Donate** option, sponsored by the Marketplace. **To donate, text "COTS" to 41444 from a mobile phone.** Learn more at www.cotsonline.org.

Our 2019 honorees

COTS recognized these outstanding volunteers in October (learn more about our honorees by visiting our blog at www.cotsonline.org):

Wilma Rayta Volunteer of the Year:

PEG EDDY, longtime administrative support

Dee PT Community Partner Award: STAPLES

and the **VERMONT LAKE MONSTERS** for their creative support of the #172vt Back-to-School Backpack drive

Samara-Anderson Walk Award: CELIA CUDDY,

for joining us and inspiring countless University of Vermont social work students to do so, too

Leahy Leadership Award: RICHARD WILLIAMS,

Vermont State Housing Authority

Special presentation of the **Innovation & Solutions Award** to the **Farmers of Cabot Creamery Co-op**, accepted by Marie Audet of Blue Spruce Farm, who won the first-ever Nation Award for Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability by the Innovation Center for US Dairy. Marie also was recently admitted into the Vermont Agriculture Hall of Fame. This award was created in recognition of Cabot's enduring gift created by helping launch Cookies for Good a decade ago and in celebration of Cabot's Centennial this year. (See story, below.)

COTS ANNUAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

National childhood homelessness advocate gave keynote address

Barbara Duffield

COTS was delighted to welcome childhood homelessness advocate Barbara Duffield to give the keynote address at our Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in October.

Barbara has spent her entire career advocating for children and youth who experience homelessness. She is the executive director of the SchoolHouse

Connection, a national nonprofit that works to overcome homelessness through education by partnering with early childhood programs, higher education institutions, and service providers.

She served as the Director of Education for the National Coalition for the Homeless, where she collaborated with service providers, as well as federal agencies and Congressional offices, to advocate for children's issues. In addition, Duffield's work as the Director of Policy and Programs at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) has helped champion national efforts to strengthen federal protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Duffield has authored numerous policy reports, and has been quoted in *The New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, and *Education Week*.

Read more about Barbara by visiting COTS' blog: www.cotsonline.org



A DECADE OF SUSTAINABLE GOOD

Cookies for Good take bite out of homelessness

Cookies for Good is a "bake sale every day" for COTS that began when **Cabot Creamery Co-op** approached COTS with a novel idea: Bake cookies, and sell them to support homeless shelters and homelessness prevention programs in Vermont.

Sugarsnap, a Vermont farm-to-table caterer, owned by Abbey Duke, partnered on the project with its nine delicious cookie recipes, and ability to handle baking and distribution. And, then in December 2010, the bake sale officially began.

At least 35% of all cookie purchases through Sugarsnap go to support COTS shelter and homelessness prevention programs. In 10 years, nearly \$100,000 has been raised to support these services.

"It means so much to me that every single day my business is doing a small something that is important: raising money to fight homelessness," said Abbey. "And all of our daily work and persistence has led to almost \$100,000, one cookie at a time."

Talk about your good cookies!

"Cookies for Good allows the farmers who own Cabot to help prevent homelessness because of Sugarsnap and Abbey's customers," said Roberta MacDonald, Cabot senior vice president of marketing. "Our goal with the initial investment in Sugarsnap resources over a decade ago was to create a perpetual income stream for COTS. As long as Sugarsnap bakes, COTS benefits and the farmers' intent is honored even during tough years on the farm."

We plan to celebrate this partnership's sustaining good throughout 2020. As part of that, we have created a new honor to recognize this enduring gift: the **Cabot Solutions & Innovation Award**, which we presented to the Farmers of **Cabot Creamery Co-Op** at our Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in October. (Learn more by visiting our blog at www.cotsonline.org.)

HOW TO ORDER: Serve Cookies for Good at your holiday party, business lunch, or send to a friend, co-worker or customer.

Nine flavors of the locally sourced treats are available: Chocolate Chip; Java Hazelnut; Peanut Butter; Double Chocolate Cherry Almond; Bittersweet Chocolate Orange; Oatmeal Raisin; Lemon Poppyseed; Ginger Molasses Snaps; Coconut Cardamom with Black Sesame. Learn more by visiting www.thesnapvt.com. To order, call (802) 861-2951.

cots Walk

About 2,000 walkers, volunteers, and supporters joined us for the **30th Annual COTS Walk** in May. The 3-mile trek May 5 around Burlington raised more than **\$230,000** for COTS programs.

The Walk would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors:



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GENEROUS IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

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CHALLENGE WALKERS

Individuals: Anonymous (3); Sydney Holt Barker; Scot Barker; Mary Candon; Tracie and Vince Carlos; Mags Conant; Denise Danyow; Sr. Isoline Duclos; Bob Duncan; Bruce Elliott; Joyce and Joe Hagan; Judy Hamel; Zoe Hart; Elizabeth Hazen; Georgia Jensen; Rita Markley; Sharon Morris; Shelley Richardson; Lucy Samara; Guthrie Smith; Evan Stainman; Stefanowicz Family; Gillian Taylor; Ann Warrington; John and Mary Wilson

Business: Baystate Financial; Champlain Investment Partners; Employees' Community Action Council of General Dynamics; FoodScience Corporation; KeyBank; Logic Supply; Sen. Patrick Leahy's Office; Verilux

Faith: All Souls Interfaith Gathering; First Congregational Church of Burlington; First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington; Love & Blessings; Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington; St. Catherine of Siena; St. James Episcopal Church; Essex Catholic Community (St. Pius X/Holy Family/St. Lawrence); Shelburne United Methodist Church; Team Mercy

School: Burlington High School; Colchester High School; Cub Scout Pack 655; Essex High School Red Cross Club; The Orchard School; Rice Memorial High School; The Schoolhouse; South Burlington High School; University of Vermont

It Takes a Village

Thanks to the generosity of **KeyBank, Staples, Rhino Cares, Homebridge** and the **Vermont Lake Monsters** our **#172vt Back to School Supply Drive** was a huge success.

We kicked off the drive by cheering on the Lake Monsters at Centennial Field with Champ, where Rhino Cares delivered the first official donations. Homebridge delivered boxes of supplies, too! Staples invited us to take part in their Block Party Celebration and table at their South Burlington location – as they helped us collect many donations from their customers. Both KeyBank and the Lake Monsters donated backpacks, and KeyBank led the backpack stuffing. We also received many donations from individuals who visited our main office or selected items from our Amazon Wish List to be mailed directly to us. Throughout the monthlong drive, we collected enough supplies from the community to fill more than 300 backpacks! Backpacks were distributed to children in COTS shelter and services, and children helped by our community partners: **Burlington Boys & Girls Club, King Street Center, STEPS to End Domestic Violence, Spectrum Youth & Family Services**, and the **Sara Holbrook Community Center**.



Thank you to **Sukha Yoga** and the **Church Street Marketplace** for including COTS in the Yoga on Church Street Summer Series.

City Market donated the surplus food from their annual member meeting, and invited us to table at **Burlington's Thursday Night Concert Series** held at Battery Park this summer.

We were thrilled to be part of the nonprofit village at the **Do Good Fest** hosted by **National Life Group** again this summer.

Gadue's partners with COTS to dry clean winter coats donated by the community to help keep our guests warm through their **Coats for Kids and Families** program.

Turtle Fur provided a large box of hats as the weather started getting colder.

Hilton Burlington invited COTS to participate in their **Thursday Nights on the Patio** event series this summer. **DJ Craig Mitchell** joined for the September date. They also collected diapers and baby wipes for families in COTS programs.



DAVNI IPPOLITO

The **20th annual Homeschoolers Bake Sale** donated proceeds (and tasty treats) from the sale held outside the Fletcher Free Library in September.

The **Vermont Agency Foundation** invited COTS once again to table at their 8th Annual All Charity Golf Tournament.

Friendly Toast hosted a Friendly Fundraiser to support COTS, donating 20 percent of proceeds from dinner one evening in October.

The **Rock Point School** hosted their annual **Ooky Spooky 5K** to help raise money to support COTS.

SEABA invited COTS to join in the fun and table at this year's **Kids Hop** as part of the **2019 South End Art Hop**.

New England Federal Credit Union sponsored musicians from the **2019 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival** to provide our guests with some swiny tunes on the patio of COTS Daystation. We were excited to welcome **Pine Street Jazz** and **Andriana Chobot Trio** to perform on two different afternoons during the jazz festival.

Burlington Furniture Co. donated 1% of their sales in the month of September to support COTS.

Main Street Family Shelter had both kitchen and flower gardens from the spring into the fall. This spring, our AmeriCorps volunteer Sam Prue coordinated with friends the planting of tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, lettuce, and herbs and more. Individual volunteers helped throughout the growing season with watering and weeding. Volunteers from **Seventh Generation** helped weed and clean out the flower beds in the spring, and volunteers from **First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington** helped weed and clean up the beds in the fall, including planting tulip bulbs to bloom in the spring. Individual volunteers also helped weed, water, and plant the garden throughout the growing season.

Sherpa Foods donated items from the COTS Wish List in honor of their son's birthday, served lunch at the Daystation, and donated a portion of their weekly sales at the Burlington Farmers Market.

Department of Vermont Health Access employees donated and served lunch to our veterans at COTS Canal Street Veterans Housing program.

Volunteer groups did projects throughout the summer and early fall – from organizing and moving donations for distribution to deep cleaning in our program spaces. Thank you to: **I-LEAD** (Institute for Leadership and Education Development); **Upward Bound** students from Burlington and Winooski; and **Vermont TREK**.

This summer, our Main Street Family Shelter kitchen and dining areas received a trauma-informed makeover (read more on page 3 or check out our blog post at www.cotsonline.org). That meant our kitchen was out of commission for cooking for about 10 days. Thank you to our supporters who provided dinner for our families during construction: **Folino's Pizza** and **MSK Attorneys**; **Leonardo's Pizza**; **First Congregational Church of Burlington**; and three COTS staff members and their families.

COTS is grateful to our partners who provided trainings for our staff and volunteers: **Vermont CARES**, **VCIL**, **Hunger Free Vermont**, **NAMI**, and **VT FEED**.

DONATIONS, DRIVES, AND COTS WISH LIST

Special thanks to those who have donated from our wish list or set up donations drives: **AmWINS Group Inc.** donated socks, blankets, baby wipes, and toiletries; **Burlington Friends Meeting** donated wish list items; **Carter's** donated clothing for children; cookies and notes for families in shelter from **Christ the King School**; **Dealer.com** for six boxes of bowls and mugs; **Delta Dental** donated travel-sized toothpaste; **Essex Center** donated socks and underwear; **Faith United Methodist Church** for boxes of toiletries and children's books; **Flynn Center for the Performing Arts** donated tickets to their fall shows; **Girl Scout Troop #52011** donated 16 boxes of cookies; **Girls on the Run** program at **Shelburne Community School** for collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, towels, gift cards and more; **Hanes Sock Drive**; **Hyde Park Congregational Church**

donated wish list items; **Kat Mooney Photography** for natural soaps from an affiliate soap business; **Market 32** donated pasta sauce; the student-lead toiletry drive at **Mount Mansfield Union High School**; **Optum Technology Commerical Services** donated soaps and shampoos; **Orthoteknics** donated 60 pairs of shoes; **RiRa Irish Pub** for their Halloween fundraising event; **Ronald McDonald House Charities** donated laundry detergent pods; **Seventh Generation** donated laundry detergent, dish soap and more; **Ursa Major Skincare for Explorers** donated face tonic; **Usborne Books** fundraised to supply more than 100 books; **UVM Medical Center Vermont Child Health Improvement Program** donated wish list items; and **UVM Event Services** for blankets. Individual supporters also donated items, including a supporter who made handmade pillowcases.

DAYSTATION LUNCH

Allscripts; **All Souls Interfaith**; **Colchester-Milton Rotary**; **College Street Congregational Church**; **Congressman Peter Welch's Office**; **COTS Housing Resource Center staff**; **Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty**; **Heritage Aviation**; **Love & Blessings**; **Mr. Z's Pizza in Barre**; **National Life Group**; **Richmond Congregational Church**; **Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington**; **Saint Michael's College**; **UVM Medical Center**; **Vermont Information Processing**; **VSECU**; **Wake Robin**; and **Williston Federated Church**; plus many, many individual supporters, who provided healthy lunches for about 50 people daily. The Daystation serves a noontime meal 365 days a year, thanks to the support of volunteers.

Thanks to the **Intervale Center** for inviting COTS to participate in their Fair Share Program that helps provide fresh food to our guests in shelter and **COSTCO** for donating a gift card each month to help support COTS Daystation meal program.

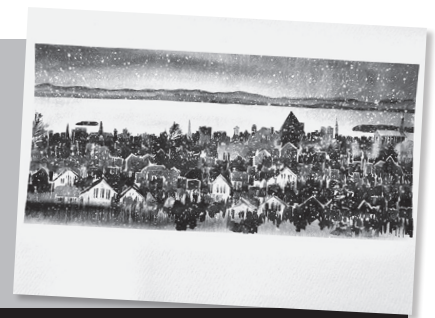
Kids in the Kitchen:

Left: Ben & Jerry's visited for a taste test with children and parents in shelter guests (pictured with Stephanie Hardesty of COTS). **Right:** Jorge Yagual and Kestrel Plump of VT FEED give training to COTS volunteers on staff on cooking with children. See story, page 3.



ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY GIFTS: Send a Katharine Montstream Card

Make a minimum \$15 donation to COTS in someone's name, and we'll send the recipient a beautiful Katharine Montstream winter cityscape card painted in cool blues with this message: "A generous donation has been made to COTS in your name. This gift of warmth and shelter will help families and individuals who are experiencing the crisis of homelessness make it through the harsh winter months." Contact Gillian to order at (802) 864-7402, Ext. 210 or gilliant@cotsonline.org. For more gift ideas, visit cotsonline.org.



Thank you!

These generous businesses and organizations provided in-kind and financial support during COTS' fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018–September 30-2019). In addition to the names here, hundreds of individuals and foundations have made financial and/or in-kind support of COTS programs and services this past year. The foundations listed below have requested inclusion in our newsletter.

14th Star Brewing Co.
95 Triple X
A Single Pebble
Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
The Alchemist Brewery
Alison Redlich Photography
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The Bagel Café & Deli
Bags 4 My Cause
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Baystate Financial
The Bellwether School
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Blue Star Mothers
Bluebird Barbecue
BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont
BNY Mellon
Bob's Laundry Vending Service
Bonehead Buddies
Booska World Wide Moving & Storage
Borsavage Hospitality, LLC (Lang House)
böswellness
Bouchard-Pierce
Boucher & Pritchard Funeral Directors
Boy Scout Troop 602 - Shelburne
Brian's North End Automotive
Bristol Bakery & Cafe
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

Burlington Friends Meeting
Burlington Furniture
Burlington Telecom
Business Communication Services, Inc.
Butternut Mountain Farm
C. P. Smith Elementary School
Cabot Creamery Co-operative
Cady's Falls Nursery
Carter's
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.
Cathedral Church of St. Paul
Cedar Ledge Builders, Inc.
Champlain Cable
Champlain Consulting Engineers
Champlain Investment Partners
Champlain Valley Quilt Guild
Champlain Woodcraft
Chappell's Florist
Charlotte Central School
Chevalier Fire Protection, LLC
The Chicago Community Foundation
Christ the King School
Church Street Marketplace
City Market Onion River Co-op
City of Burlington Housing Trust Fund
City of South Burlington
Clif Bar & Company
Colchester Food Shelf
Colchester High School
Colchester Hockey Boosters
Colchester-Milton Rotary Club
College Street Congregational UCC
Combined Federal Campaign of Northern New England
Common Deer
Community Bank, N.A.
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Community National Bank
Competitive Computing
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Congregational Church of South Hero
Copper Leaf Financial
Costco Wholesale #314

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CVS
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Cynthia's Spa
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Danform Shoes
Danforth Pewter
Darn Tough Vermont
Daughters of Isabella, Madonna Circle
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Dealer.com
Death Before Decaf Roasting Co.
Dee Physical Therapy
Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)
Desai Management Consulting
Diemer Properties, LLC
Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew, P.C.
District 4 Ladies Auxiliary VFW
The Dixie Six
Dok Wright Photography
Dubois & King, Inc.
Duncan * Wisniewski Architecture
Dunkin' Donuts
Eagle Eye Farm, Inc.
ECHO at the Leahy Center
Edmunds Elementary School Choir
El Cortijo
Employees' Community Action Council of General Dynamics
Engineers Without Borders VT
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Enviro Tech of VT Septic Services, LLC
Essex Center United Methodist Church
Essex Center United Methodist Church Women
Essex Free Library
Evolution Physical Therapy & Yoga Studio
F.O.E. Champlain Aerie #793
Faith United Methodist Church
Faith United Methodist Church Women
Fanny Allen Corporation, Inc.
Faraday
The Farmhouse Group
Farrell Real Estate Co.
Fead Construction Law, PLC
Feldman's Bagels
Ferrara Group, Inc.
Fidelity Charitable

First Baptist Church
First Congregational Church of Burlington
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
First Unitarian Universalist Society
First United Methodist Church
Fitness Options Personal Training Studio, LLC
Fitzgerald Veterinary Hospital
Fletcher Free Library
FoodScience Corporation
Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty
Fraternal Order of Eagles #3210
FreePressMedia
Furchgott & Sourdiffe Gallery
G W Tatro Construction, Inc.
Gadue's Dry Cleaning, Inc.
Galen Healthcare Solutions
Gallagher, Flynn & Company, LLP
Gannett Foundation, Inc.
Garcia Tobacco Shop, Inc.
Gardener's Supply
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont, Inc.
GE Foundation
GE United Way Campaign
General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems
Georgia Elementary & Middle School
Geri Reilly Real Estate
Girl Scout Troop 52011
Goldman, Sachs & Co. Matching Gift Program
Good Shepherd Lutheran
Grace United Methodist Church
Grand Way Seniors Association, Inc.
Greater Burlington YMCA
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Greek Orthodox Philoptochos
Green Mountain Chorus
Hallam Associates, Inc.
Hannaford Brothers Co.
Hannaford Supermarkets
Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop
Heilmann, Ekman, Cooley & Gagnon, Inc.
Hemenway & Barnes LLP
Henry's Diner
HomeBridge Financial Services, Inc.
Homeschoolers of Chittenden County
Hotel Vermont
Housing Vermont
Hunger Free Vermont
Hyde Park Congregational Church
IBM Computershare
IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign

IBM Retiree Charitable Campaign
Image Outfitters
In the Pocket Jazz Band
Independent Block, LLC
Instrumart
Intervale Center
ISCIENCES, LLC
ISI Water
J M Smith Foundation
J&R Kramer, Inc.
J. A. Morrissey, Inc.
Jeff Corey Excavating, Inc.
Jericho Elementary School
Jess Pom, LLC
Joy in Childhood Foundation, Inc.
Kelsey Trust
Keurig Dr Pepper
KeyBank
KeyBank Foundation
KeyBank National Association
King's Corner Deli
Kiss the Cook
Knights of Columbus
La Villa Bistro
Lakeside Pharmacy
Larkin Realty
Leonardo's Pizza
Let's Grow Kids
Leunig's Bistro
Living Well Chiropractic
Logic Supply, Inc.
Love and Blessings
Lund
Mad River Valley Real Estate
Maheux Heating and Refrigeration, Inc.
Main Street Landing
Malletts Bay Congregational Church UCC
Management Accounting Services, LLC
Mansfield Hall
Mansfield Mortgage Professionals
Manufacturing Solutions, Inc.
Masonic North Star Lodge
MAXIMUS Foundation
Meredith Corp.
The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Inc.
Mi9 Retail
Mirabelles, Inc.
Mister Z's Restaurant
Montstream Studio
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC
Mount Mansfield Union High School
Murphy Sullivan Kronk

Must Love Yarn
NAMI Vermont
National Life Group Charitable Foundation, Inc.
National Life Insurance Co.
Native Energy
Network for Good
New England Air Systems
New England Federal Credit Union
New England Floor Covering
New England Housewrights, Ltd.
New Moon Cafe
North Star Leasing
NorthCountry Federal Credit Union
Northeast Delta Dental
Northfield Savings Bank
Northgate Residents' Ownership Corp.
Northwestern Vermont Board of Realtors
NRG Systems
Ohavi Zedek Synagogue
Oil N Go
Opportunities Credit Union
Optum Technology Commercial Services
Orthotekniks
Our Hearts to Your Soles
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
P & P Septic
The Parish of Holy Family and St. Lawrence
Paul Frank + Collins, P.C.
PayPal Giving Fund
Peacham Church Fellowship
Penny Cluse Cafe
People's United Bank
People's United Community Foundation
Pizzagalli Properties, LLC
Place Creative Company
Pomerleau Foundation, Inc.
Pomerleau Properties, Inc.
Positive Change
PP&D Distribution Service
Price Chopper
Queen City Printers, Inc.
Red House, Inc.
Redstone Commercial Group
Reformed University Fellowship
Religious Hospitalers of St. Joseph
Revision Military
Rhino Foods
Rí Rá Irish Pub
Rice Memorial High School
Richmond Congregational Church
Rock Point School
Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

Ronald McDonald House Charities
 Rose Computer Technology Services, Inc.
 Rovers North
 Sabra Field, Inc.
 Santa Night
 The Schoolhouse
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 Select Design
 Seventh Generation
 Seventh Generation Foundation, Inc.
 Shelburne Museum
 Sherpa Foods, LLC
 Smith-Alvarez-Sienkiewicz Architects
 Snowflake Chocolates
 Sodexo, Inc. & Affiliates
 South Burlington High School
 South Burlington Rotary Club
 South Burlington School District
 Speeder & Earl's Coffee, Inc.
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 St. John Vianney Church
 Saint Michael's College
 Edmundite Campus Ministry
 MOVE Office
 Staples
 Star 92.9
 Starbucks
 State of Vermont
 Stephen & Burns, Inc.
 Stephen Mease Photography
 Stone Underground Construction
 Stonecutter Spirits, LLC
 Stowe Mountain Lodge
 Sugarsnap
 Sukha Yoga
 Sweet Clover Market
 Systems & Software, Inc.
 T Ruggs Tavern
 Teen Challenge VT
 Temple Sinai Reform Jewish Congregation
 Teucrium Trading, LLC
 Thomas Mechanical, Inc.
 Timberlane Dental Group
 Town of Bolton
 Town of Charlotte
 Town of Essex
 Town of Hinesburg
 Town of Huntington
 Town of Jericho
 Town of Milton
 Town of Richmond
 Town of St. George

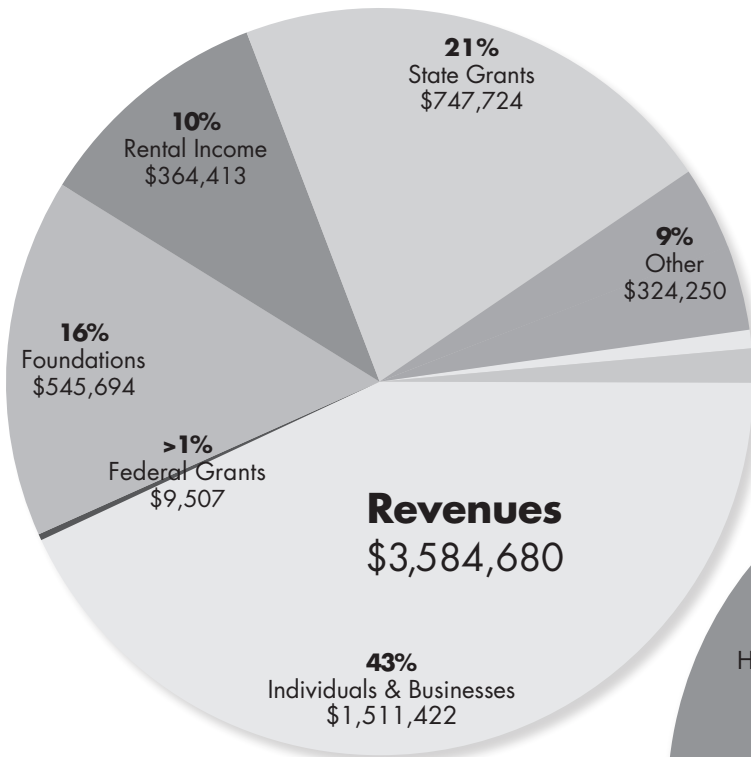
Town of Underhill
 Town of Williston
 Tradewinds Imports, Inc.
 Training, Marketing & Technology, Inc.
 Trapp Family Lodge
 TRUiST
 Trust Company of Vermont
 Turtle Fur
 Unilever United States Foundation, Inc.
 Union Mutual of Vermont Companies
 United Church of Colchester
 United Church of Fairfax
 United Methodist Women of Montgomery
 United States Department of Veteran Affairs
 United Technologies Matching Gift Program
 United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, Inc.
 United Way of Greater Philadelphia and
 Southern New Jersey
 United Way of Greater Portland
 United Way of Northwest Vermont
 United Way Suncoast
 University Mall
 University of Vermont:
 Club AFECT
 Community Development & Applied
 Economics
 Hillel
 Kappa Alpha Theta
 TREK
 University Event Services
 University of Vermont Medical Center:
 Children's Hospital
 Larner College of Medicine
 Medical Center Ophthalmology
 Orthopedics & Rehabilitation Center
 Vermont Child Health Improvement Program
 USANA
 Usborne Books & More
 Vanguard Charitable
 Verilux, Inc.
 Verizon Wireless
 Vermont Agency Foundation
 Vermont Business Magazine
 Vermont CARES
 Vermont Catholic Charities

Vermont Center for Independent Living
 Vermont Children's Trust Foundation
 Vermont Community Foundation
 Vermont Cookie Love
 Vermont Energy Investment Corp.
 Vermont Federal Credit Union
 Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
 Vermont Information Processing, Inc.
 Vermont Korean-American United
 Methodist Women
 Vermont Lake Monsters
 Vermont Legal Aid
 Vermont Mutual Insurance Co.
 Vermont Systems, Inc.
 Vermont Teddy Bear Co.
 Vermont Tent Co.
 Vermont Zen Center
 VFW Post 1767
 VFW Post 491
 Vintage Jewelers
 von Trapp Greenhouse
 W.B. Mason
 Wake Robin
 Waterbury Center Community Church
 WCAX-TV
 Westaff
 Westport Hospitality, LLC
 Whitcomb Woods Tenants Association, Inc.
 White+Burke Real Estate Investment
 Advisors, Inc.
 Williston Central School
 Williston Federated Church
 Williston Federated Church –
 Women of the Church
 Willow's Bagels
 Winburn Law Offices
 The Windjammer Restaurant
 Windmill Children's Center
 Winooski School District
 WOKO/WJOY Radio
 WowToyz
 Wright & Morrissey, Inc.
 YourCause, LLC

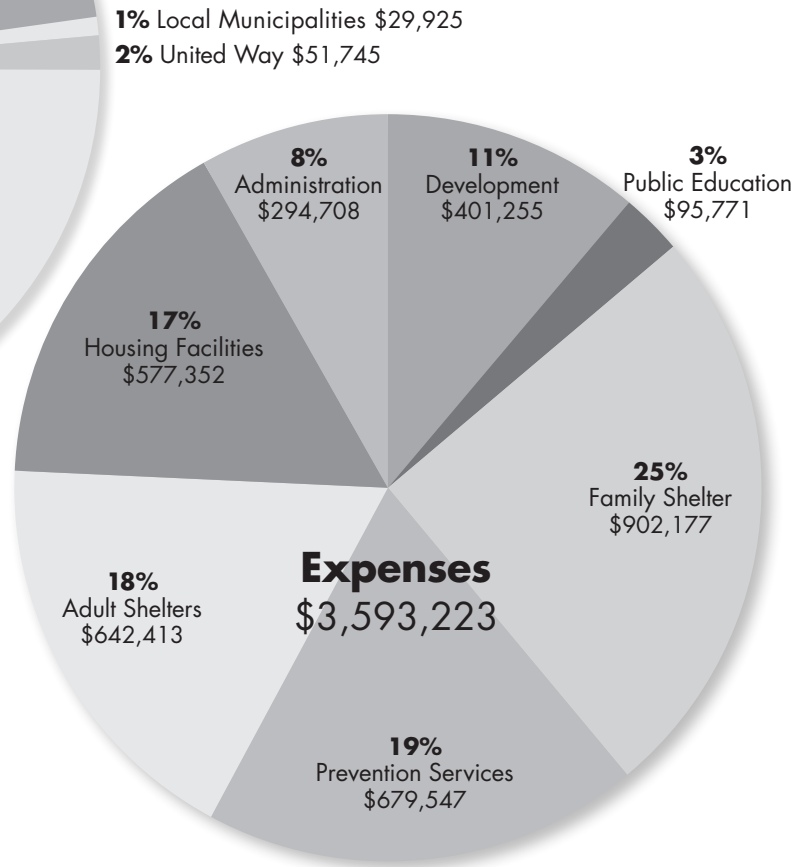
IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Taxpayers age 70½ and older can increase their gift-giving capacity through the Charitable IRA Rollover by donating up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to COTS or another nonprofit of their choice. This enables IRA account owners who are subject to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) rules to use untaxed money in an IRA as a donation to a charity tax-free. For more information, visit www.cotsonline.org or reach out to your financial advisor.

2019 in Review



These are pre-audited numbers.



Overall, we helped 2,303 people (including 766 children) last year.*

COTS Shelters

FAMILY SHELTERS: 52 families (including **97 children**) stayed in a COTS family shelter. We can host **15 families** each night.

ADULT OVERNIGHT SHELTER: 281 individuals stayed in COTS' year-round program shelter, which provides **36 emergency beds** each night.

ADULT DAYTIME DROP-IN CENTER: 471 individuals visited the Daystation, a daytime center for homeless adults, where a noontime meal is served daily with the help of volunteers. An average of **43 people** visited daily.

Housing Navigation

COTS FAMILY HOUSING SERVICES: 69 families, including those staying in emergency shelter or the community, received support from COTS staff.

COTS ADULT HOUSING SERVICES: 209 single, homeless adults received outreach and support from COTS staff.

Prevention Support

PREVENTION ASSISTANCE: 225 households (including **228 children**) received prevention assistance through the COTS Housing Resource Center (HRC).

REHOUSING ASSISTANCE: 93 households (including **82 children**) received rehousing help through COTS' HRC program.

COTS Housing

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: 23 units of housing for families and individuals are offered by COTS at the Smith House and Canal Street Veterans Housing.

PERMANENT HOUSING: 75 units of housing are offered by COTS at the **Smith House, The Wilson, St. John's Hall, 95 North Avenue** (with Housing Vermont), **Canal Street Veterans Housing** (with Housing Vermont).

* COTS services provided during COTS FY19: 10/1/18-9/30/19.



**COMMITTEE ON
TEMPORARY SHELTER**

PO Box 1616
Burlington, VT 05402-1616
802-864-7402
www.cotsonline.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Burlington, VT

Mark your calendar

Find out more about these events – and how you can get involved – at our Web site: www.cotsonline.org.

THE GREAT DEE PT DIAPER DRIVE

Under way now
through December 19.

Three drop-off locations:

Dee PT:

23 San Remo Drive,
South Burlington

Field House:

166 Athletic Drive,
Shelburne

Dee PT: 52 Farmall
Drive, Hinesburg

Diapers can be dropped off:

Monday–Thursday: 7 a.m.–6 p.m.

Fridays: 7 a.m.–4 p.m.

Jason Fitzgerald, Dee PT Exercise Physiologist and Clinical Coordinator, began this extraordinary drive in 2007. Now in its 12th year, the drive has collected more than 650,000 diapers for families in need. The diapers are distributed through



COTS and our community partners. Sizes 5, 6 and pull-ups especially needed.

The University of Vermont men's hockey team is among the many supporters, and this year, they've included the drive in their game against rival Boston College on November 16 at Gutterson Fieldhouse. Supporters can bring diapers and donations to the game, while they cheer on the Cats. Visit cotsonline.org to watch a video about the drive and learn more.

PHONATHON

December 2–5: 5:30–9 pm

December 9–10: 5:30–9 pm

December 11: 9 am–noon
95 North Avenue, Burlington

Enthusiastic volunteers “dial for dollars” to raise money for COTS shelters and services. If you are interested in joining us to volunteer, please call Reagan at (802) 864-7402, Ext. 207 or email reaganm@cotsonline.org.

CITY MARKET TREE SALE

Begins December 4

City Market

82 South Winooski Avenue,
Burlington

NEW! The City Market location at 207 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, also will sell trees, beginning December 6. Moffatt's Tree Farm in Craftsbury once again will supply the trees. Trees cost \$40 with sales continuing until all trees are sold. Visit www.citymarket.coop/cots-tree-sale to volunteer.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

5:30 p.m., December 18

Burlington City Hall steps
Church Street Marketplace

Each year, during the week of the Winter Solstice, we pause to reflect on those who are homeless in our community. Community leaders share brief vignettes about people who were homeless this past year. Refreshments follow in City Hall's lobby.