

## Letter from our Executive Director

Many of us have felt the aftermath of the pandemic. For countless people it continues to be the most stressful time in their lives. They are struggling to make enough money to pay their day-to-day bills. Youth and racialized people are having a hard time getting back into the workforce. And many new families have fallen deeper into debt and are no longer able to afford basic necessities or holiday gifts.

What if you recently became a widow and single parent to a toddler because you lost your spouse to mental health?

Your monthly bills include:

\$1800 / rent  
\$150 / electrical  
\$250 / car payment  
\$150 / car insurance  
\$1000 / child care

You work full time for \$22.00 an hour. You bring home \$3575 a month and your bills average \$3350. You're making it but barely. This doesn't include groceries, clothing, gas, internet, cable, cell phone, hydro, children activities, and other unexpected costs.

You're grieving your spouse and you receive a funeral bill for \$10,000. How do you pay it? Your other bills pile up and you can't afford to pay your full rent. You call your local homeless shelters and all of their beds are full.

You move in with a friend temporarily that lives an hour away from your workplace and child's daycare. You apply for an apartment with the Region of Peel where the wait list is 3-7 years. You now look to Children's Aid to link you with the appropriate community services to build a healthy and safe environment for your small family.

I'll stop here ... as I am certain you understand my points. The people we support everyday are these people. **WE ARE THESE PEOPLE.** Each one of us are at-risk of experiencing homelessness at some point in our lives.

All it takes is:

- One death in the family
- One unexpected bill
- One lay-off
- One house fire etc.



I am reaching out because we still need 27 new monthly donors to help us meet the 40% increase in emergency requests for our Holiday Wishes Program and Distribution Centre that provides 3000 vulnerable families and 15 other likeminded organizations with donations of new clothing, cleaning supplies, bedding, toiletries, baby necessities, holiday gifts, and grocery gift cards throughout December and all year round.

Your support will create memorable holidays, alleviate poverty, and help struggling families to meet their basic needs, no matter what challenges they face.

Please join me and become a compassionate monthly donor to spread holiday cheer and give vulnerable families the resources they need all year round to transform their lives for a brighter future. To sign-up or to make a contribution, please visit <https://p2p.onecause.com/holidaywishes>. Many thanks in advance for your warm support!

Best wishes,

Renae Addis  
Executive Director

