

## Letter from the 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 such as food, toiletries, housing, gas, and transportation. This is in addition to the existing families that were already living below the poverty line in pre-Covid-19 times.

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 receive a termination notice from your Landlord.

Now you're in court crying to a judge who has no empathy and you have 10 days to vacate your home. To rent a new space you must pass a background and credit check, which you cannot do because your landlord evicted you. You are not a criminal, but even if you could pass the background check, you are not able to come up with the money to make a deposit for first and last month's rent.

Your time is up! Your landlord just showed up at 7:00 a.m. with the Police to change the locks.

You call your local homeless shelters and all of their beds are full. You must resort to living in your car with your two year old daughter and all of your belongings. You try to get a storage unit, but you don't have a billing address, therefore, they aren't able to sell one to you.

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. And you 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 37 new monthly donors to help to sustain our Distribution Centre that provides 2500 vulnerable families and 15 other likeminded organizations all year round with donations of new clothing, cleaning supplies, bedding, toiletries, toys, baby necessities, and grocery gift cards. As well as emergency support for transportation, technology, legal fees to secure citizenship, mattresses, utility bills, etc.

For as little as \$15 a month, your support will 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 today by making a tax-deductible gift here <https://www.peelcaf.com/butterflyeffect.html>.

Thank you in advance for providing vulnerable families with the resources they need to transform their lives for a brighter future. I look forward to updating you on their achievements and accomplishments.

With gratitude,



Renae Addis  
Executive Director

