



# Message from the CEO

As we settle into 2025, I wish you and your loved ones a year filled with health and happiness. Time seems to be flying by, and so does the growing need for support in our community. Thanks to your incredible generosity, Port Cares continues to make a meaningful difference for those facing hardship - from low-income seniors to young families struggling to make ends meet.



January is always a tough month, and this year is no exception. Rising costs for rent, utilities, and groceries mean more families are turning to the Port Cares Reach Out Centre Food Bank for help. Your donations allow us to meet this growing demand, providing food and essential supplies to those who need it most. In 2024, your support helped us purchase over \$150,000 in food for local residents, and we are truly grateful.

## REACH OUT CENTRE FOOD BANK FACTS

- 1 in 10 local Port Colborne & Wainfleet residents rely on our Reach Out Food Bank.
- Food banks do not receive any form of government funding - we rely exclusively on donations and fundraising.
- We are a member of the Provincial Food Bank Association, FeedOntario, ensuring a high standard of food banking.
- We're more than a food bank - we provide special programs for children, seniors, medical clinics, and crisis support.



# Opening Soon - Chestnut Place

The excitement is growing as the finishing touches are being made to our [Affordable Housing Development](#) at 9 Chestnut Street, Port Colborne!

Construction got underway a year and half ago in July 2023 and just 18 months later we're putting the final touches on this impressive building built by [Rankin Construction](#).



The five story 41-unit rent-geared-to income building has been named **Chestnut Place** and by the end of March will be home to low income seniors and single moms with children.

This housing project provides safe, affordable housing for low-income seniors and single mothers with children. With rents between \$430 and \$800 (including utilities), tenants can use more of their income for basic needs, creating stability and opportunities for a better future.

Funding for the \$15.8 million project came from key partnerships:

- \$9.1M from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- \$1.75M from the Niagara Region
- Land donated by the City of Port Colborne
- Additional contributions from Port Cares and major donors

As a valued donor, Port Cares invites you to tour the building at our official **Open House** on **Thursday, February 27th** at **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** We hope you can make it!

[Confirm My Attendance!](#)

## Meet Our Team

Matthew Brule, our Corporate Support Coordinator, manages donation tracking and receipts. A Business graduate from Brock University with a focus on finance and HR, Matt joined Port Cares in 2022. Born and raised in Port Colborne, he's dedicated to supporting his hometown community.

For questions about your donation or documentation, contact Matt at **(905) 321-6013 ext. 269**



## Why I Give - *Kate Ostryhon-Lumsden*



*“I give because it’s who I am. Helping others isn’t just about providing a service, it’s about creating lasting change. When people have stability in their lives, they can focus on growth, health, and opportunities. It’s my way of giving back to the community that has supported me for so long”*

[Read Kate’s Story Here](#)

*Every donation you make has the power to change lives. With initiatives like Chestnut Place, your support helps provide more than housing - it creates stability, dignity, and a chance for the less privileged to build a brighter future. Together, we're improving lives and strengthening our community.*

**CHRISTINE CLARK LAFLEUR, CEO**

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