

cNotes

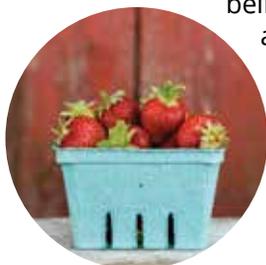


Sheepscot Farm
Blue Horse Photography

Member Spotlight Sheepscot General Store & Farm

What started as a passion for agricultural studies between husband and wife duo, Ben and Taryn Marcus turned into renting 5 acres of farmland in Whitefield, Maine. It has evolved over the past ten years to become a team of 15 employees and a booming general store that supports over 200 vendors. Sheepscot's mission to bring sustainable food and farming traditions back to Maine is well on its way.

After learning Sheepscot's previous financial institution had closed the doors on them, cPort took this opportunity to reach out and express an interest in working with them. From the start, the Marcus family say they felt as if they belonged. Taryn notes "my favorite part about working with cPort is the personal connection they've taken the time to make with our family and business." She describes the cPort staff as being, "Super friendly, and knows who we are, it's a refreshing feeling."



Like many small businesses, the COVID-19 pandemic hit Sheepscot hard, and they had to lay off most of the staff pretty early on. However, Taryn says, "Working on the PPP loan

process with cPort was so easy and straightforward. It's huge for a small business to have that experience." Soon after successfully securing funding, Sheepscot was able to rehire almost their entire staff back.

"The silver lining of the pandemic" as Taryn refers to it, is that we have all remembered how important a sustainable food ecosystem is. Now, more than ever, people are caring about where their food comes from and what they are putting in their body. Taryn refers to this newfound concern around food sustainability as "the responsibility of our generation." The Sheepscot General Store supports a variety of other vendors by selling their food at the market, most of which are located in close proximity to the farm.

It's important to remember how finding ways to work together and support our local community not only during these times, but always, can help shape the bigger picture in a positive way.

To learn more about Sheepscot General Store & Farm visit their website: sheepscotgeneral.com



Message From The CEO

When you get down to it, it's never one person that makes the greatest impact. We've found at cPort that we are at our best when we are all working together. Due to the pandemic, it hasn't been an easy winter for anyone. But by listening, talking, and doing things together, we emerge into spring with conviction. It feels satisfying to see the cPort staff, our members and local businesses pull together and thrive.

The team at cPort is focused on providing innovative banking solutions and an exceptional financial experience not only by working together but by working with you. Our decisions are informed by listening closely to your financial needs and feedback about our products and services. We strive to be great by working together with you.

This approach also spills over into the work we do in the community. We continue sponsorships such as with the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, Ladder to the Moon, Equality Maine, Catholic Charities of Maine, Amjambo Africa, Prosperity Maine, and the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project. These organizations are crucial to strengthening the fabric and health of Maine and we are proud to play a part in the important work they do.

Our Scholarship Program continues virtually and we look forward to awarding scholarships to students in elementary schools. In 2020, nearly 500 students participated in the program, and we awarded 112 college scholarships to third, fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade students. We hope to achieve the same success in 2021 in collaboration with Portland and Augusta public schools.

Recognizing the need for below-market-rate microloan funding for small businesses in the immigrant community, we partnered with The Indus Fund. cPort is proud to be working with this community-supported endeavor to help New Mainers own businesses. Our business efforts don't stop there. As the government continues to aid business, and with the guidance of our dedicated Loan Ops Team, is helping over 150 small businesses in Maine secure PPP funding from the SBA.

Listening to you is important for our success and growth. Please don't hesitate to email me (gardito@cportcu.org) or call 207-253-4111 to talk to me or any cPort employee.

Thank you for your membership.

Sincerely,

Gene Ardito
President and CEO

Join us at cPort's 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom 7:30am

Join us for our Annual Meeting to hear reports on cPort's performance and activities in 2020 from our Board of Directors and President.

All members are welcome! **Please RSVP by May 19th** if you plan to attend. You can register by the following ways:

-  **Talk to a cPort teller**
-  **email info@cportcu.org**
-  **Call at 1-800-464-0253.**

Enter cPort's 2022 Photo Calendar Contest!

Get your cameras ready. We're kicking off our annual calendar photo contest for our 2022 cPort calendar.

The calendar features 12 winning photos and the Grand Prize photo on the cover. The Grand Prize winner also wins \$150!

Photos must be all least 300 DPI and horizontally oriented.

To enter: Please submit digital photo entries to photo@cportcu.org by Friday, July 30, 2021.

For full photo calendar contest guidelines, visit cportcu.org/photo





Staff Spotlight

Alicia Roberts, Vice President of Human Resources at cPort Credit Union

We sat down to chat with cPort’s very own VP of HR, Alicia Roberts who has been a recently appointed board member to both the United Way and Olympia Snowe Women’s Leadership Institute. When she is not responsible for recruiting top talent for cPort, Alicia is very active in the community.

Alicia says it is important for employees at any organization to be active in the community because it gives you a different perspective on things, and the experiences you learn can translate into your professional role as well.

In her role as VP of HR, Alicia says being involved with organizations outside of work is particularly important when it comes to looking at candidates for cPort, since one of our core values is Community. She says, “Candidates are usually the ones to bring up the aspect of community involvement first while interviewing, since they see how much cPort does to support our local organizations.”

Gene Ardito, cPort’s President & CEO says, “Alicia is an example of an employee who excels at work and in the community.”

So, you might be wondering what Alicia’s aspirations are serving not only one but two very prominent boards in the Maine community. Alicia says her goal is simple, “I want to use whatever knowledge and skills I have to better our community through the support of both of these organizations. My family has grown up in Portland and I want to give back to where I grew up.”

“ It is important to me to give back to the community where I grew up. ”



BOAT LOANS

RATES AS LOW AS **3.75% APR** | **36 MONTHS**



The Indus Fund Makes its cPort Debut.

cPort is proud to offer below-market interest rate microfinance loans to service the needs of small business owners within the immigrant community of Maine through newly created Indus Fund.

With the Indus Fund, small business owners could qualify to borrow up to \$10,000. These funds can be used to support an existing business for things such as expansion, equipment, and other needs. To be eligible, applicants must be a first-generation Mainer New Mainer.

To apply, call 1-800-464-0253 and we will connect you with a cPort Member Care Representative to get you started.



cportcu.org

Toll free: 1-800-464-0253

CUPhone: 1-888-306-0033

BRANCHES

Portland Riverside (Main Office)

50 Riverside Industrial Parkway
Portland, Maine 04103
P: (207) 878-6200

Portland Forest Avenue

285 Forest Avenue
Portland, ME 04101
P: (207) 200-2300

Portland Middle Street

35 Middle Street
Portland, Maine 04101
P: (207) 305-0020

Augusta

399 Western Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330
P: (207) 623-1001

Scarborough

313 US Route 1
Scarborough, Maine 04074
P: (207) 883-2448

BRANCH HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Saturday: Closed

MEMBER CARE CALL CENTER

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm

Friday: 8 am - 6 pm

Saturday: 8 am - 12 pm

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Memorial Day

Monday, May 31, 2021

Independence Day (Observed)

Monday, July 5, 2021

The articles in this publication are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. We suggest you consult your attorney, accountant, financial or tax adviser with regard to your individual situation.

cPort Scholarship Program Goes Virtual!



We all know the 2020/2021 school year looks a little different than normal. However, despite some of the challenges one thing remains, this Spring, cPort is proud to be facilitating its 14th year of the Elementary School Scholarship Program. This year we have six schools participating in the program from Portland and Augusta. Students will participate in a mix of virtual workshops, including pre-recorded videos and live Zoom classes. They will then be asked to write an aspirational essay about where they want to go to college and what career they may want to pursue in the future. The classes kicked off in early March, and we cannot wait to see what the students come up with this year!

cPort Staff Are Active in the Community

Financial Literacy

In January, our Middle St. Assistant Branch Manager, Kara had the opportunity to participate in a virtual financial seminar for Portland High School. Kara talked with students about things like how to choose a bank, how to decide on what type of an account to open, and what you need to open an account. At cPort, we love discussing financial education with students in our community.



cPort Goes Red to Support the American Heart Association

On Friday, February 5 cPort staff wore red to help promote the mission of the American Heart Association on National Go Red day.



Junior Achievement of Maine

cPort Staff Participate in Career Videos in partnership with Junior Achievement of Maine. A few employees with differing roles at cPort filmed a video to share with students highlighting their career. Staff shared a little bit about the background and how they ended up where they are now in their current role and how they came to join cPort.

