



*Christmas on display
the puppets dance
to the beat of Spoonman
Young and old
tapping their feet
an imaginary jig of yesteryear*



Happy Holidays to all !

The year-end holidays are quickly approaching once again, everything must be ready to celebrate together joyously. This is an intense time of sharing for residents and guests who gather for various meals, leading to many emotions, laughter and, occasionally, tears. Some experience the most wonderful Christmas of their lives, which is delightful, but is telling about what they have gone through on life's journey. Thanks to the counsellors, volunteers and to your donations, everything is in place: decorations, gifts, delicious meals, and music, shared so that this particular time of year is the most delightful and comforting as possible.

I wish you a magnificent festive season and offer my thanks for your support which is so essential to us.

Micheline Cyr, director of Auberge Madeleine



My house, my Auberge

Here are a few extracts of very touching testimony from Francine who stayed at the Auberge and who then benefitted from post-lodging support.

" One day in September 2016, there I was in front of a large red brick building full of windows and a front garden. One more step to take to get a roof over my head. A few women met earlier had told me that it was a good spot, that they had private rooms! Wow, a room with privacy!!! ... I had lost my last full-time job in February 2016 ... I had a car in which I lived for several days. Well, lucky me, it was summer, it was possible to sleep in a car.

Now the real story begins. I was in front of the door, I rang, I introduced myself to the counsellor, I was nervous but she arrived with a big smile and the story of my shelter began with a smile.

I will never forget the second day of my arrival, there was a writing workshop, a counsellor invited me to participate, why not Francine? You're good at talking. Writing is easy and the first question was very easy, write about the things we love. Well, I got up, my eyes were watery and I had a frog in my throat. Unable to write a single thing ...I didn't know anymore what I loved in life, I had lost my landmarks, my family, my pride and much of my self-esteem, I had nothing!! I was alone.

All the counsellors I met during my stay brought me a little something more to carry on, to try to understand, to understand myself and to move ahead!

I thought that the end of the story was the day I left Auberge Madeleine, my Auberge! Oh, goodness, no, the story goes on and I continue to participate in some activities and workshops at the Auberge.

On the other hand, I have a little less time now, because I found full-time work that I love which makes me independent and happy. However, I do call the counsellors to give them news.

The best spot for me at the time was Auberge Madeleine and everybody who worked there participated in this journey, sometimes tumultuous, but the calmness was much appreciated.

Congratulations "

Francine D.
November 2017



A party for our volunteers

The assistance provided by volunteers to Auberge Madeleine is very important; 48 people gave more than 900 hours of voluntary work to the Auberge during the past year.

This precious support and generosity is much appreciated by the staff and the residents. This contribution of energy, spirit, smiles, know-how and, of course, work accomplished impacts greatly on the fulfillment of our mission towards the hundreds of women in homeless circumstances. This was why on November 5th, we hosted a 5-7pm gathering for the volunteers at the Café les Entretiens. We expressed our gratitude and handed out symbolic gifts.

A sample of the volunteers' testimonies:

I had an opportunity to work alongside very devoted counsellors and mix with women with rich and unique experiences. I miss the time spent in your company. *Annabelle*

I thank the Auberge for having shown the strength of connections between human beings, particularly between women. After a few hours there, I knew that social service was the career path I wanted to take. *Catherine*



For me, the Auberge is a team, warm-hearted, humane, and full of heart. I go there with joy and pleasure. *Manon*

For me, the Auberge is my gang, my family. It is amongst you that I discovered myself, that I learned my strengths, that I accepted myself with my shortcomings, where I feel stronger. *Annie D.* Stronger together... carried by solidarity... nourished by our mutual strengths... expanded by exchange...concerned with equality...happy in sharing and blooming amidst the respect. *Sophie B.*



Micheline Cyr

The Auberge needed Wednesday volunteers. I was there with two other women. We each had our own strengths.. and due to circumstances...here I am today, responsible for volunteers with the same Annie, my colleague with whom I learned and shared, and keep on sharing again and again. *Cécile*

Let us mobilize against violence towards women

Twelve days of action to end violence towards women began on the November 25th, the International day for the elimination of violence towards women and ended on the National day of commemoration and action against violence towards women on December 6th.

Auberge Madeleine has participated in this movement for the past nine years and unfortunately our action takes on even more importance this year. Without precedence, the wide scope of revelations of sexual aggression has made headlines and the rounds of social networks, and thrust into the spotlight the suffering of victims and the complexity of many situations. However, these aggressions represent but a sliver of the phenomenon of violent acts against women.

Women from all walks: immigrants, indigenous people, handicaps, young or old, the homelessness encounter violence because they are women. The alarming statistics are that one in three women will be a victim of sexual aggression and one in four, a victim of conjugal violence during the course of her life in Quebec.

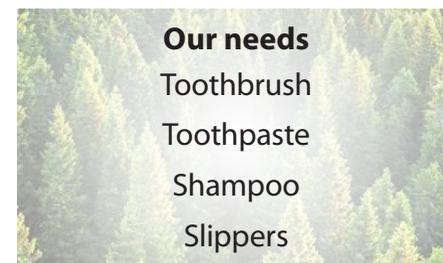


In this context, on November 30th, the shelters members of the Federation of women's shelters held sensitivity awareness activities across Quebec. Auberge Madeleine held one such sensitivity activity and shared in the distribution of recyclable bags carrying the logo "Violence against Women, Never again!" as well as giving out informative brochures at the Jean Coutu pharmacy and the Métro store in our neighbourhood.

Solidarity and determination to continue the struggle are essential to promote changes towards equality.



Laurence, counsellor and Claudette, volunteer



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