

## The Benefit Concert: A True Success

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, we held the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of our yearly benefit concert. Writer and columnist Judith Lussier hosted this highly colourful and emotional evening. Many incredibly talented artists joined us and it made for some very beautiful moments.



**Mélanie Walsh**, General Director, and **Judith Lussier**, host and volunteer

We would like to thank our spokesperson, Charlotte Cardin, as well as our guests, Safia Nolin, Beyries, Fanny Bloom and pianist Virginie Reid, and Frannie Holder.



**Charlotte Cardin**, Spokesperson of the Auberge Madeleine

We would like to thank the team of the Théâtre Paradoxe, who welcomed us in a grandiose decor worthy of this event.

We would also like to thank all those who participated, at any level, in making this evening such a success. Our special thanks go to Ginette Marcotte and Luc Paquet as well as the Paquet Foundation.

Thanks to all of you, we raised over 50 000\$.

**We are already working on the 2020 edition, and we hope to see you there!**



**Judith Lussier**, host, with **Maude** and **Fatou**, employees

## Important Stats from Last Year

Our yearly general assembly was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

A few important statistics from the year 2018 – 2019 :

**317** stays lasting an average of **26** days

**241** different women

**107** women had their first stay at the Auberge Madeleine this year

We had to refuse **7 379** requests due to a lack of room.

Poverty is a common denominator in all of the women who call upon our services. The problems of mental health (89%), violence (86%) and physical health (70%) occupy a large part of their day-to-day life.

**27%** of the women we shelter were born outside the country.

**51%** of the women we shelter are over 50 years old, and **16%** of them are over 61 years old.

We would like to officially welcome our three new administrators:

**Judith Lussier**, writer and columnist

**Karine Lemieux**, philanthropy professional

**Adil Lahlou**, experienced in the business sector

We also took the opportunity to highlight the contributions and departures of two members of the board of directors. Special thanks to Patricia Middleton and Hugo St. Laurent for their devotion and commitment through the years.

We owe you a lot, and we know that you will always remain allies!



**Ana-Maria Seifert**, President, and **Patricia Middleton**, Secretary for the board



**Hugo St. Laurent**, Treasurer, **Mélanie Walsh**, General Director, and **Ana-Maria Seifert**, President of the board

## A Tip of the Hat to Mélanie Walsh, Director

It has already been a year since you've taken command of the great ship that is the Auberge Madeleine. Before you had arrived, all we knew was that you were young, trained as a psychologist and that you loved teamwork! We were impatiently awaiting the famous Mélanie Walsh. Together, in very little time, we lived through many emotions and challenges. When you arrived at the Auberge, with its 35 years of history, it was already well established with its specific strengths and challenges. You were able to take the time to observe, to listen, to question and to make your own idea of what was to come.

Mélanie, for the past year, your strength and energy are proof that you are at the right place. The residents and the team hope that you will remain at the command of this charming ship for a long, long time!

Thank you, from the whole team of workers at the Auberge Madeleine.

## Opportunities for Women of 55 and Over

Brin d'Elles is an initiative funded by the Fonds dédié à l'habitation communautaire which gives women a chance at affordable community housing. We know that all women who come to Brin d'Elles have lived through residential instability for a period of at least 3 years, so having access to stable and autonomous housing is a solution to homelessness.

This summer, a third Brin d'Elles building was built in the Villeray neighbourhood to house 26 women of **55 and over**. This initiative allowed us to refer 6 women, all well known of our services, so that they could be housed.

The success of the project is linked to three factors: the first is the unwavering support of partner organisms such as the Auberge Madeleine, the Y des femmes de Montréal, the Centre de réadaptation en dépendance de Montréal, the Réseau Habitation Femmes and the Maison Marguerite. The second factor being the involvement of the residents, and the third being the service agreement with the Fédération des OSBL d'habitation de Montréal.



Laurie-Anne, nutritionist, and Emmanuelle, employee

Of course, Emmanuelle, our worker dedicated to ex-resident support offers said **support** and **visits** with residents referred by our organization in order to facilitate the permanence of their housing.

## Welcoming Immigrant Women



Jiana and Laurence, employees

Two of our workers, Jiana and Laurence, held a position as support for immigrant women until last July. This project came as a result of the growing reality

of women from diverse cultural backgrounds finding themselves in situations of homelessness. At the Auberge Madeleine, more than one out of four women are born outside the country, a reality which complicates their already complicated situation of homelessness.

This project aimed at supporting immigrant women continued from April to July, including 33 individual consultations and 19 individual accompaniments which provided services to around ten immigrant women from different countries.

The goal of accompanying these women through their processes was aimed at answering various needs, related to health, housing, finances and immigration.

This project was made possible thanks to a spontaneous grant from the Secrétariat à la condition féminine.

## An Employee's Testimonial

This year, we welcomed two students for a 10-week period as part of a grant from Canada Summer Jobs. Kim Demers-Baron and Brenda Soto, accompanied us daily in our work with women in situations of homelessness.

### Kim's Testimonial

This summer, I had the chance to learn in an inspiring living environment. At the Auberge Madeleine, we are there to help women move forward, to help them see a little clearer in the steps they need to take, in the path they need to take. Thank you all for guiding me, for helping me, for listening to me, for coaching me and for inviting me to such a beautiful environment. I understand why you love it so much. I hope that happiness, love and laughter keep being a part of your day to day. Keep opening your soul and your heart to those who surround you (you already do it so well). May your future be rich in knowledge and success!

## An Ex-Resident's Story

After my stay at the Auberge Madeleine, I wanted to give thanks, to you and to every worker, for contributing in making it a resourceful time in which I was filled with love and human warmth. Obviously, when you think "shelter", you expect a bed and a roof, but what I found there went much further than that.

Simply put, without pretence or judgment, I was welcomed as a member of an immense family. Both the workers and residents played a role in my stay, a role that left a very personal mark. Every interaction delivered its share of confiding, of discoveries and of mutual enrichment, and some were even the prelude to beautiful friendships.

Today, to all these women who are filled with love and who supported me during my stay at the Auberge Madeleine, I would like to give my very sincere thanks.

Thank you for transforming this sad and obliged passage in my life into a springboard towards a serene future that is full of hope, where happiness is a daily guest!

[Make a donation to the Auberge Madeleine.](#)

**The Auberge Madeleine, a story of heart and necessity...**

 **Thank you, to all our faithful donors!**

### Newsletter production credits

Coordinated and written by: Valérie Métivier and Mélanie Walsh

Edited by: Chloé Gauthier

Page layout by: Fishtank Communications

Translated by: Olivier Iverson

### Our current donation needs:

Socks

Slippers

Pajamas

Underwear

Kitchen aprons

514-597-1303