



Celebrations, sharing, colourful lights, a tree, gifts, laughs and some delicious meals...Holiday preparations have slowly begun at the Auberge Madeleine. Every year, different activities are organized, giving us the opportunity to gather together and to mark this very special period.

The holidays can sometimes bring a feeling of fragility when we are going through a difficult period. This is why it is so important to feel that you are part of a big

family at that specific moment. It is also why we work towards creating a warm environment and a feeling of solidarity that adds some spark to the eyes of the women who come to our organization. We put a lot of heart and effort into our work!

Thank you all for your generosity and your commitment. Your support is both precious and essential. We want you to know that we are infinitely grateful and that your involvement, whatever the extent, contributes to bettering the living conditions of all the women we shelter and support.

**Happy holidays!**

—Daphnée Quentin, coordinator

## An increase in the number of aging women in shelters

At the Auberge Madeleine, we have had to get used to receiving progressively older women living in a situation of homelessness. This gives the workers a substantial feeling of powerlessness. These women live through what we call “accelerated aging.” Their health and autonomy are compromised. Being an elderly woman who lives in a precarious financial and social situation puts you in a particularly fragile position. At the time, there are very few resources adapted for them, which forces the current resources to be extremely creative when deploying their

services. Relayed by the action plan on homelessness, there are too many of these forgotten women for us to ignore. They must be considered. If we open our eyes, our hearts and our arms as wide as possible, if we breathe out a little kindness, if we wrap these people with the coat of dignity and security, we can help in warming their cold living conditions.

—Cynthia Bédard, shelter worker



## A testimonial from one of our residents

It was on a gloomy and rainy Saturday night that I stayed at the Auberge Madeleine for the first time. That night, nature shared my sadness as I watched its tears pouring over the window of the police car that would bring me to my new destiny.

At the front desk, a little lady with a soft voice welcomed me, showed me my room, gave me a tour, asking me if I needed anything the entire time...

After a tactful and sweet chat, I found myself in my room, which offered luxuries of which I had been deprived for too long. Before falling asleep, I felt something I hadn't for many moons. I felt an overwhelming warmth...I felt I was safe for the night, for a few days, for a few weeks...

The perspective of comfort is what began my stay at the Auberge Madeleine.

My first goal was to once again go through the process of receiving my old age security pension, which I was entitled to for 10 years but which the federal government insistently refused to give me! This was a true saga that we were determined to denounce! And we did it!

When taking the steps necessary to renew my health insurance card, to file my missing tax reports or to look for an apartment, a shelter worker was always there to help!

I found some incredibly reliable allies at the Auberge Madeleine, and they helped me get back on the horse.

Staying at the Auberge Madeleine is like coming to a new family that has been pieced together, full of mothers, aunts, big and little sisters, each of which brings their own support and affection.

—Madame L., age 75

## Accompaniments tailored to each resident



The Auberge Madeleine offers accompaniment services to all of its residents when doing the legwork necessary to get back on their feet. This is an important service to those in a vulnerable state and who have been through many negative experiences in getting access to the services they need.

In an attempt to prevent chronic homelessness and in order to avoid a situation that is difficult to reverse,

the support we offer is specific, flexible and intensive, when need be.

Accompaniments are very flexible. They are adapted to each resident and promote social inclusion.

The warm welcome we give our residents makes them feel safe and allows us to pinpoint whatever urgent legwork needs to be done.

The women we shelter participate in every step of the intervention plan, which is based on recognizing their strengths and their rights.

Accompaniments promote access to necessary and suitable health services, help residents receive or recover their base income, help in obtaining an immigration status and help women solve situations of judicialization.

Last but not least, the women at the Auberge are supported during their search for housing, the hope being that they reach residential stability.

—Cristina Acevedo, shelter worker



Many volunteers and donors think of the residents throughout the year, particularly during the holidays.

For the past 2 years, Ms. Esther Dussault has knitted scarves that are as beautiful as they are warm. This year, Ms. Dussault brought us 27 magnificent scarves for the holidays.

What a generous gesture!

In the name of all the residents, the team at the Auberge Madeleine would like to extend our very warm thanks!

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

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

*This January, an invitation you shouldn't miss!*



GROUP EXHIBITION  
JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 FROM 6:30PM TO 8:00PM  
FREE ADMISSION • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

# Femmes imágenes

Two unique works come together to showcase the artistic expression of the women who have come in contact with the Auberge Madeleine.

Join us at  
La Librairie l'Euguélonne  
1426 Beaudry Street, Montreal




The photos are works on reclaiming ones body and on the concept of beauty. The paintings were made through a process of reflecting on the space that women occupy within the community. That space we occupy, which is both physical and mental.

*Here are a few beautiful moments from the past year*



ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE SHELTER WORKERS AND THE RESIDENTS, THE TEAM OF THE AUBERGE MADELEINE WISHES YOU VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**Newsletter production credits**

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**Our current donation needs:**

Warm blankets (no wool)	Warm pyjamas L – XL
Winter boots	Underwear L – XL
Slippers	Warm socks
	Fitted sheet for single bed

514-597-1303