



PORTRAIT OF A CLIENT

OVERCOMING LIFE'S HARDSHIPS

Stephanie was born a twin to a single mother in Woodchurch, Hanover, Jamaica in 1948. Unable to look after both girls, Stephanie's mother permanently entrusted her care to her aunt and uncle. Stephanie grew up struggling with school, and instead focused her time on household work and tending to farm animals.

At the age of twenty-one, Stephanie went to live with another uncle in Montreal, Canada. To contribute to the household, she found work as a housekeeper. Stephanie married in 1976 and had two children. The family lived in an apartment in NDG. She and her husband struggled to cover all their expenses, including rent. They were asked to leave several times by the landlord. Her husband abandoned the family and the children remained with Stephanie until Youth Protection placed her six-year-old daughter and three-year-old son in foster care. Both children eventually asked not to see their mother anymore as it caused them too much emotional stress and Stephanie stopped seeing them altogether as she realized she exacerbated their sadness.

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Photo courtesy of TanisSaucier.com



CHEZ DORIS CELEBRATES!

Holiday Fair

Our 4th Annual Chez Doris Holiday Fair will take place on **December 2nd from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Chez Doris.** Come support us! The fair will feature handmade mittens, slippers, jewelry, and traditional Aboriginal crafts. This event is the perfect occasion to find original holiday gifts for your loved ones. We will also have a raffle table with amazing prizes and a Christmas "wish list" tree with ornaments labelled with our house needs. Proceeds will go towards both the women and our Holiday Party for our clientele.

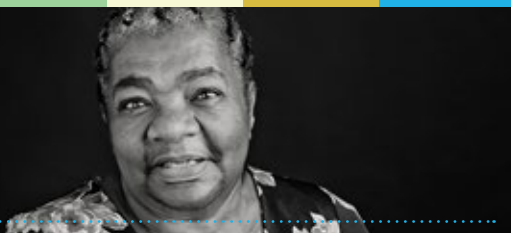
For more information or to contribute to a specific need, please contact Joëlle Michaud at 514 937-2341 ext. 238 or by email at joelle.michaud@chezdoris.org.



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Her ordeals did not end there; in time, a bailiff came to the door and forced Stephanie to leave. All her belongings were thrown out and, not knowing of any resources, Stephanie slept in Westmount Park. A police officer noticed her and brought her to a women's shelter where she had a nervous breakdown. She subsequently spent five months in the psychiatry unit at the Montreal General Hospital for treatment.

Upon Stephanie's discharge, she was referred to Chez Doris where she met with a caseworker to develop a plan to overcome her homelessness. Her caseworker accompanied her to appointments at the Douglas Hospital, where she recommended that Stephanie live in a permanent group home for adults; with her doctor on board, they made this happen.

In 2005, Stephanie moved into her group home and enrolled in Chez Doris' Financial Administration Program. Since then, her monthly social assistance cheque is received by her caseworker who ensures that rent payments to the group home are made, that she has a bus pass and a budget she can follow to cover basic needs. Since being followed by Chez Doris, she has a roof over her head, has some financial autonomy and a sense of independence. Stephanie loves her daily visits to Chez Doris, where she can take part in activities and benefit from its services.



Holiday Party

To accommodate our growing number of clients, Chez Doris will host two parties back-to-back on Wednesday, December 12th at The Evangel Lighthouse for 300 women. They will be served by local police officers as well as by volunteers and donors. Back by popular demand, Sheldon Kagan and his team will once again provide music, games, and entertainment, including crooner Matt Mardini, who will serenade the ladies. The women will enjoy a delicious meal, prizes, gifts and some line dancing with the officers!

From left to right, Martin Caplan (volunteer from B'nai Brith Québec), Lieutenant Jacques Meunier and Community Relations Officer Stéphane Laperrrière (both from Station 12) serving lunch.

Message from the President & Executive Director

While every woman who comes to Chez Doris has a unique story, Stephanie's is one of hardship, immense grief and adversity. Ultimately, she was helped to heal and achieve stability. Fulfilling our mission of offering tangible help to all women in difficulty could not be done without our donors.

You may have heard that last May we received an extraordinary donation of \$1 million from Mr. Andrew Harper and his belated wife, Carole. Pledged through the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal, this gift is transformational and will allow Chez Doris to expand its services. Mr. Harper's aim is: "... to invite all who want to make a difference, to invest in Chez Doris, as it plays a big role in improving our society." Because of his largesse, we recently purchased a building for \$1,025,000; with this extra space, our goal is to offer emergency overnight beds. Our medium to long-term needs are to raise at least \$750,000 for essential renovations for the newly acquired building and possible conversions to our existing building. By 2020 Chez Doris will have significantly expanded its mission as this will become our third site since we will also begin managing a new permanent residence for vulnerable women.

We pledge to do our best and we invite all philanthropists large and small to join us. Please send in a donation or inquire about a major gift opportunity.

Thank you!



Marina Boulos-Winton
Executive Director

Carole Croteau
President

Holiday Needs



We depend on donors to make the holidays special; our needs include:

- 30 food baskets and 35 personalised gifts for children in our Aboriginal Housing Program.
- Gift cards for restaurants and movies open during the holidays.
- 300 treats such as chocolates and candy canes, 300 soft drinks and 40 Christmas log cakes.
- An assortment of gifts to be used as prizes during Bingo and other games.
- Financial and in-kind donations to hold our New Year's Day brunch for 80 women.

For more information or to help with our holiday needs, please contact Joëlle Michaud at 514-937-2341 ext. 238 or at joelle.michaud@chezdoris.org.

A NEW permanent residence for 26 women



1.



- The architectural plans are complete, and the next step is for a general contractor to be selected. Chez Doris is responsible for the purchase of equipment and furniture estimated to cost \$365,000 as well as eventual operating costs associated with the social support given to the tenants, which is estimated to be \$148,000 annually. Major funding for start-up and annual costs are sought.

1. Architectural Plans: Street view of 2233 de Champlain Street
2. Lay-out of a studio apartment, four of which will be handicap accessible

IN MEMORY of Adam Steinberg (1966-2018)

If you met Adam Steinberg at his local coffee shop or met him as a member of the Building Committee at Chez Doris, you wouldn't know he was one of Montreal's most generous and committed philanthropists. Adam grew up understanding the importance of giving back. His grandfather Nathan, and parents Arnold and Blema Steinberg, were all very active in Montreal's philanthropic community. Adam blended his commitment to philanthropy with his true love for the city. He worked in real estate, and he focused his giving on bricks and mortar projects, supporting organizations like Chez Doris to provide safe, healthy, and inspiring spaces for the community. Adam traveled to most meetings by bike. His understated, informal and approachable style was his signature. As much as he gave in funds he gave of his time and expertise. Adam's legacy lives on through the Silver Dollar Foundation, and his imprint is on each brick he helped put in place in community spaces across the city.



Pictured is Adam Steinberg to the left with Talar Dikijian, Past President of Chez Doris and René Goulet of the J.A. DeSève Foundation at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. A new front balcony and roof were completed thanks to grants from the Silver Dollar Foundation.

Welcome to our New President and New Board Members

At our most recent AGM, our past Treasurer, **Carole Croteau**, was elected President of the Board of Directors, replacing Talar Dikijian who remains on our Board. As well, four new members have joined the Board, bringing the number to 15 people. New members are: **Mélanie Allaire**, from CN, **Cristel Chabot-Lapointe**, from McCarthy Tétrault, **Micheline Lanni**, from Ernst & Young and **Mario Lefebvre**, from Ivanhoé Cambridge.

SAVE the date!

Holiday Fair at Chez Doris Sunday, December 2, 2018, 2 - 5 p.m.

Can't make it to Chez Doris' Holiday Fair? Why not come one of the following locations to purchase our mittens and slippers (for yourself or as gifts!) all the while supporting us:

WHERE	WHEN
Dollard Centre for the Arts' Fair 12001 boul. De Salaberry, Dollard-des-Ormeaux	Nov. 17 & 18 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
TMR Craft Fair 90 Roosevelt Ave., Mount-Royal	Nov. 23 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Nov. 24 & 25 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Le 1000 De La Gauchetière Le Hall - 1000 De La Gauchetière West, Montreal	Nov. 29 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun Life Building 1155 Metcalfe, Montreal	Dec. 13 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Chez Doris' 10th Annual Tea Time Fundraiser Sunday, May 5, 2019, 2 - 5 p.m.



Location: Oval Ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton Montréal, 1228 Sherbrooke St. W., Montréal, QC H3G 1H6

Tickets \$80 ea. or \$75 ea. for 2 or more. Sponsorships available, ranging from \$500 to \$10,000.

For information call Anna Nixon at 514 937-2341 ext. 246.

How You Can Help

Any amount donated to Chez Doris has an impact on over 1,600 different women who come to us every year from all corners of Montreal and beyond.

With only 22% of our annual operating budget covered through funding from the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services and Centraide, the balance is raised from annual grants, private foundations and the generosity of individual donors. In addition to our operating costs, Chez Doris needs help with its upcoming projects: a new permanent residence and overnight shelter beds. Needs include new furniture and appliances for 26 rental units and equipment for a community kitchen.

Consider a major gift by holding an event to benefit Chez Doris, a tribute gift, donating publicly traded securities, providing for Chez Doris through a life insurance policy or a bequest. **Contact Marina at ext. 225 or Anna at ext. 246 for more information.**

NEW PROGRAM

Art Therapy

Thanks to a grant, Catherine Wells, B.F.A., M.A. was hired to provide weekly art therapy workshops for our clients. Our hope is that the art therapy sessions will be an opportunity for them to self-reflect in a meaningful way. Self-expression and communication occur during the making of art as thoughts, ideas, memories and emotions emerge through the creative process. Art therapy relieves stress, stimulates the imagination, and provides insight into the complexities of our personal lives and relationships. It can be transformative.



SUMMER CAMP

Women members of the Kanawake Golf Club organize an annual golf tournament to raise money for Chez Doris' women to experience summer camp. This year, seventeen women and three staff members enjoyed a three-night stay at Camp Kinkora in late August. The women had the opportunity to escape the bustle of city life and to connect with nature. Swimming, kayaking, painting and bonfire nights allowed the ladies to develop lasting friendships. Everyone left with a signed and decorated t-shirt to commemorate the experience!



FRONT LINE SERVICES CASEWORKER TEAM

Chez Doris's clothing room was used 3,907 times, the showers were used 1,140 times, 834 food bags were distributed and over 3,000 hygiene products were handed out. We could not sustain these high numbers without our incredible front-line services team. The caseworkers' compassion and open hearts make Chez Doris feel like home. Their dedication and motivation make a world of a difference in the women's lives every day.

Weekday team: From left to right standing up, Allison Lemieux, Floor Team Leader, Felicia Katsouros, Intake caseworker and Neha Shukla, caseworker for Inuit clientele. Sitting down, Shelay Paris and Alannah Gibson. Missing are our weekend team: Clara Seidenberg, Virginie Yeba Gbongo and Sadya Cousineau.

Special thanks to

The Shoebox Project

We wish to extend our appreciation to Katherine Velan and Debby Jardine for their leadership of the Montreal chapter of the Shoebox Project. Twelve years ago, the chapter launched and provided 30 shoeboxes; each is filled with a variety of small gifts worth around \$50 for vulnerable women during the holidays. Last year, it distributed shoeboxes to over 2,700 women from 34 different Montreal shelters. For our 2018 holiday party Chez Doris will need 300 shoeboxes. To help us achieve this goal, contact: mtlshoeboxes@gmail.com.

The Trottier Family Foundation

The Foundation provides funding for groceries for participants in our Aboriginal Housing Program. Often having little left over after paying their rent, our clients look forward to the 15th of each month to receive this much relied-upon donation, which is particularly essential for women who must survive on just over \$600 a month in social assistance.

Divinart Foundation

Founded by Sinthusha Kandiah, the foundation sells henna tattoo services and custom handmade crafts as ways to raise money for those who are most vulnerable and in need, both locally and internationally. The foundation offers formerly homeless Aboriginal women a welcome basket filled with necessities such as cleaning supplies when they settle into a new apartment.



Connie K. and Sinthusha Kandiah

Richard Pringle

It is with great sadness that we announce the retirement of Richard Pringle from his volunteering position as a tax return specialist for 15 years. Richard completed over 700 tax returns every year. Thank you, Richard, for all the work you did. You will be missed!

donate

CHEZ DORIS

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

2018-19

chezdoris.org

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info@chezdoris.org

[facebook.com/ChezDorisRefuge](https://www.facebook.com/ChezDorisRefuge)

OPENING HOURS

7 days a week
8:30 am – 3:00 pm

We accept on-line donations. See "Make a Donation" tab on our web site's home page. We also accept third party gifts, publicly traded stocks, and estate gifts including insurance policies. For more information contact Marina Boulos, Executive Director, at 514 937-2341, ext. 225 or marina.boulos@chezdoris.org.

Chez Doris is a registered charity offering daytime shelter 7 days a week for all women in difficulty. The drop-in program serves up to 100 women per day. Services include: breakfast and lunch; access to showers, hygienic products, and a clothing room; 6 respite beds; information and referral assistance; a financial management program; an Inuit assistance program; an Aboriginal housing placement service; health and mental health services; tax filing and legal services; as well as educational and socio-recreational programs.

Registration number: 101835841RR0001