



PORTRAIT OF A CLIENT

TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE IN CANADA

Hadjira lived a modest life in Algeria; she worked as an administrator at a school commission to support herself, her mother and brother. Facing cultural pressures of being forty-six and unwed, Hadjira accepted to marry the brother of a family friend, who lived in Canada. Her husband-to-be traveled to Algeria to marry her. Three years later, in 2015, with immigration papers in hand, Hadjira joined her husband in Montreal.

A month after her arrival, the provincial police knocked at their door: she watched officers seize and examine all technological devices in the house. Panicked and distraught, she learned her husband was a sex offender towards minors. He was arrested and tensions within the family grew. Her in-laws, with whom she lived with and was dependent on, sent her back to Algeria, as a result of her refusing to declare she was aware of her husband's actions.

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Photo: Hadjira/Courtesy of TanisSaucier.com



10th Annual Tea Time Fundraiser

Join us for our 10th Annual Tea Time Fundraiser, in honour of **Hockey Helps the Homeless**, for their significant support of Chez Doris. A delightful afternoon of fine tea, sandwiches and sweets await you; fabulous items will be available through the Silent Auction and Raffle, all for a great cause!

Location: Ritz-Carlton Montréal, 1228 Sherbrooke St. West, H3G 1H6

Date & Time: Sunday, May 5, 2019, from 2 - 5 p.m.

Tickets: \$85 per ticket or \$75 ea. for 2 tickets or more. Advance purchase only.

To purchase tickets, see enclosed response card or visit chezdoris.org/en/tea-time-2019

Tickets can also be purchased by phone at 514 937-2341 ext. 227.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Anna Nixon at ext. 246 or visit chezdoris.org/en/tea-time-2019.

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Hadjira subsequently returned to living with her mother and brother. Being in the dishonourable position of a woman whose marriage has failed, no one believed her account of what transpired abroad. Without support, she silently suffered from anxiety and depression. Nine months later, Hadjira returned to Canada determined to divorce her husband. With few resources, the CLSC helped secure a place for her at a shelter.

Overwhelmed with stress, Hadjira came to Chez Doris for help with her ordeal. Hadjira's caseworker became an invaluable pillar of support by securing an income, searching for affordable housing and being an advocate. Additionally, Chez Doris provided her with appointments with our in-house psychologist and family doctor. Chez Doris also supported Hadjira through the difficulty of attending her ex-husband's trial and sentencing; he was ultimately given a two-year sentence, three years' probation and life on the registered sexual offenders list.

Despite challenges and setbacks, Hadjira has persevered to overcome her predicament; she is currently completing classes at an adult education centre and hopes to complete hairdressing courses. Next month Hadjira will sign a lease for her first apartment. Throughout this process, Chez Doris continues to provide psychosocial support, food bags, clothing, hygiene products and daily meals as well as donations of furniture and household items to help start a new chapter in her life.

In Hadjira's own words,

“Chez Doris is my family, they have literally wiped my tears. I feel a sense of peace when I enter the doors of Chez Doris”

Message from the President & Executive Director

Hadjira's story is an example of the diverse population of women we serve. Thanks to the help that Hadjira receives from Chez Doris, combined with her determination, she faces a bright future in Canada, one that, in time, will see her reach her goals and in turn see her contribute towards her community.

In the span of a year, Chez Doris' clientele has increased by more than 20%. While a quarter of Montreal's homeless population is female, not much more than 10% of the resources available to the homeless are dedicated to their needs. This winter, due to an overall lack of space in existing shelters, a section of the old Royal Victoria Hospital was converted to provide beds for the homeless during the cold months. While we support this effort, it does not respond to women's needs nor address the permanent, year-round problem of overcrowded women's shelters with a shortage of beds. Every day, we see women desperately trying to find a safe refuge.

In our last newsletter, we reported plans to open an emergency overnight shelter for women as well as a permanent residence in 2020. Our architectural plans for the shelter are now complete, and the costs for these two projects combined will be significantly higher than what we had initially anticipated. As a result we are now exploring the implementation of a major campaign to raise money for capital and operating expenses.

In the meantime, we hope you will join us at our Annual Tea Time Fundraiser on May 5. On this occasion, we will share our latest developments with you.



Marina Boulos-Winton
Executive Director

Carole Croteau
President

10th Annual Tea Time Fundraiser

On Sunday, May 5, 2019, we will celebrate the 10th edition of our Annual Tea Time Fundraiser at the **Ritz-Carlton Montréal**. Over 250 attendees are expected where we will honour the generosity of a major partner: the Montreal chapter of Hockey Helps the Homeless, a pan-Canadian non-profit that organizes charity tournaments in support of organizations who help the homeless.

In recent years Hockey Helps the Homeless has provided substantial funding for Chez Doris, notably for important repairs and upgrades to our building, including renovating our respite room with day beds, our shower room, medical clinic, and storage facilities. Most recently, they have pledged significant funds for furniture for our future permanent residence.

Tea Time is both an occasion to honour our major partners and raise funds for our operating expenses and expansion projects through sponsorships, donations, ticket and auction sales.

Photo: Hockey Helps the Homeless



Featured in this year's silent auction is a painting donated by Terry Tomalty. Advance bidding is possible by phone: ext. 246. Minimum bid: \$1,500.



Game in the Lane, Terry Tomalty, 2018, oil on canvas, 12" X 16"

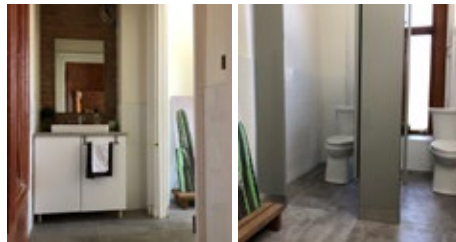
CHEZ DORIS

featured on Maître du Chantier

Chez Doris was recently featured on a new renovation show called Maître du Chantier at the site of our future emergency overnight shelter for homeless women. Twelve participants entered this televised renovation contest produced by Zone 3 and broadcast on the V network, with the hope of being crowned Québec's best general contractor. In each episode, the contestants carry out major work for a charity and risk being eliminated from the show. The episode featuring Chez Doris where two bathrooms were renovated, was broadcast on March 25. To view the episode, go to: Noovo.ca.



Before



After



McGill students provide best practices for opening a women's overnight shelter

McGill University students, Elsie Chan, Marion Daigle, Maya Smith and Nicole Whitmarsh conducted research and produced a report for Chez Doris as part of their coursework for their Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies. The students were matched to Chez Doris thanks to the University's Social Equity and Diversity Education Office, which seeks practical learning opportunities for its students. The students contacted shelters in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa to examine their strategies for managing a night shelter and surveyed Chez Doris' clientele regarding their needs. Among their recommendations are logistical and physical considerations with regards to bathrooms, storage, laundry facilities and sleeping quarters as well as procedures for a staggered intake process, a night routine, a discharge policy, and accessibility/inclusivity guidelines. Thus far, their recommendations have had an influence on the architectural design of the working and living spaces of our future emergency overnight shelter for homeless women.

Pictured above from bottom left clockwise: Elsie Chan, Marion Daigle, Nicole Whitmarsh, and Maya Smith

It's a date!

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

Location: Ritz-Carlton Montréal, 1228 Sherbrooke St. W.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
Annual General Meeting and Open House

RSVP: Natalie Côté at 514 937-2341 ext. 227 /
natalie.cote@chezdoris.org

A Wet Shelter for Montreal?

The CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île de Montréal recently mandated the *Institut universitaire sur les dépendances* to provide scientific advice on the implementation of a "wet shelter" in Montreal. Also known as a "managed alcohol program" the objectives are to provide chronically homeless people with severe alcoholism a safe place to drink in a controlled manner, prevent further deterioration of their health, provide safety and help them regain social and professional skills. Chez Doris has been invited to sit in on one of two working groups; to help with the research, Chez Doris organized a focus group of thirteen women with chronic alcoholism to speak with researchers about their needs as well as how they struggle daily to keep their withdrawal symptoms at bay.

We mourn

Since December, Chez Doris lost many Inuit women. We sadly said goodbye to **Crystal E., Taalia N., Connie K., Nina D., Winnie T., Annie I., and Kuppa K.** Many came to Chez Doris almost every day, and they

will never be forgotten.

We would like to thank **Reverend Annie Ittoshat** for facilitating the memorial services in Inuktitut and English at Chez Doris and providing the community at large a safe place to honour these strong yet gentle women.

We are also grateful to elder Mike Standup, who provided spiritual protection and blessings through a smudging ceremony for our entire building and staff.

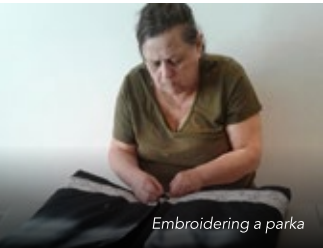


Connie and Kuppa

NEW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Urban programming for Indigenous people

Thanks to a five-year grant from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Chez Doris has begun organizing cultural and socio-recreational activities for Indigenous women to re-connect with their heritage and reclaim their identity.



Embroidering a parka

To date, 31 women have gathered to share their skills and craftsmanship, creating moccasins, nasaq (Inuit hats), parkas, paulueet (Inuit mittens), as well as woven baskets. After their activity, the women have enjoyed a collective meal of country food including bannock and caribou.

They have used these opportunities to come together and share stories, support and wisdom. Throughout the sessions, the women have developed and strengthened their sense of belonging, self-esteem and identity, while creating friendships and circles of support.

JOHN NEWMAN: 1955-2019



It is with sadness that we announce the death of our dear friend John Newman, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 27, 2019.

As a member of the Board of Directors between 2004 and 2011, John was deeply passionate about responding to the needs of the vulnerable women he served. A gifted cook and caterer with a huge heart, John subsequently stepped in at our time of need in 2014 to become our weekend cook, a role which he filled until 2017.

John was last at Chez Doris on January 1, 2019, working his magic in the kitchen to prepare the New Year's Day brunch for the women of Chez Doris. This was an annual event that he never missed. His legacy of kindness at Chez Doris will live on.

At the request of his family, donations may be made to Chez Doris in his memory.

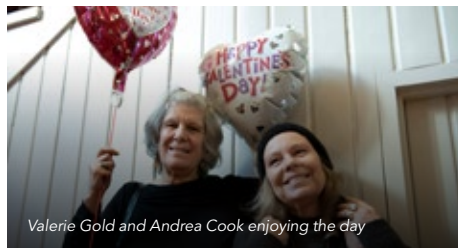
Special thanks to

The borough of Ville-Marie, an anonymous donor, Evangel Church, B'nai Brith, Sheldon Kagan, the Shoebox Project, Divine Chocolatier, Fednav Employees Group, Bonnie Paskell and friends, Hutchins Legal, Karen Aziz, Briarwood Church and many others: who helped make the holidays special.

The Illuzzi Family: who prepared a huge Italian-style Christmas Eve lunch for 100 women. Many thanks as well to those who sponsored them.



Illuzzi family



Valerie Gold and Andrea Cook enjoying the day

Tina Donolo: who oversees the mitten project. The sale of mittens paid for a Valentine's Party for 113 women. They enjoyed a complete breakfast, manicures, games with prizes, a pizza lunch and Karaoke. Massages were also offered by the **Association de massothérapeutes et naturopathes au Québec.**

INCA Relief Canada: for sponsoring and serving lunch each Sunday for three months.

Holly Durkee: who asked her friends instead of birthday gifts, to buy gift cards from different stores and donate them to Chez Doris.

Sufi House: for providing us with a complete special brunch once a month for the past seven years.

Sarah Alter-Sabloff and Cynthia Kerr: for organising a third annual spa day at Chez Doris; this year in collaboration with Salon Vibes.

A Special thank you to those who follow us on social media: and who order and pay online for much needed items (e.g. underwear, coats, boots, a bed, a fridge, etc.) and have them delivered to Chez Doris or a client's home.

donate

CHEZ DORIS

42ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

2019

chezdoris.org

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F: 514-937-2417

info@chezdoris.org

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

OPENING HOURS

7 days a week
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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