



For immediate release

Shield of Athena Post-Lilac Event Communique

Monday December 9th, 2024 (Montreal) = The Shield of Athena Family Services celebrated its 33rd anniversary with a sparkling evening of fundraising at the 2024 edition of their “Lilac Event” this past November 23rd. This beautiful gala soiree held at the Embassy Plaza Laval was attended by 200 people and generated \$120,000.00.

This event was part of the Shields ongoing five year, 5-million-dollar Capitol Cost Campaign to meet the increased demand for critical services and resources for women and children victims of family violence.

Funds raised will help the Shield with the ongoing expansion of their emergency shelter “Athena’s House” that doubled its capacity during and after the pandemic. Monies raised will also go towards a new generator for their “Second Step” resource, a brand-new, secure, longer term, 17 unit building which will open in 2025.

The event was hosted by CJAD broadcaster Joanne Vrakas accompanied by her husband, internationally renowned artist Andre Monet, whose work of art was sold at our live auction for a significant amount.

Also, in attendance: the event patron Katarina Varvarigou, Greek Consul General of Montreal, Emmanuella Lambropoulos – MP for St. Laurent and Member of the Standing Committee for the Status of Women and Mary Deros, City Councilor for the borough of Parc Extension.

Major sponsors included The Azrieli Foundation, The Orchestre Classique de Montréal, Schwartz’s Deli, Scotiabank, Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, The Papadimitriou Family, Pianos Bolduc and the City of Laval.

A spectacular time was had by all as attendees were entertained by a delightful string quartet, members of the Orchestre Classique de Montréal, during dinner. After, legendary jazz, blues and soul singer Michelle Sweeney and her band set the dance floor on fire. The crowning moment of the evening was the raffling of a pair of Air Canada tickets donated by Marina Hatzakis of Direct Travel.

In light of their ongoing campaign to fund their services, please visit their website [here](#).

About the Shield of Athena

The Shield of Athena is a non-profit organization for victims of family violence with three points of service in Montreal and Laval and a community outreach department. The Shield’s network offers emergency shelter and professional services to women and their children. The multilingual support, intervention and prevention services offered are adapted to meet the needs of many of Montreal's communities. Additionally, the Shield of Athena reaches thousands more through



information sessions, publications, videos, and media programs offered through our multilingual community outreach department.

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Contact Person

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