



# Bouclier Express

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**April 2013, volume XI**

Established in 1991, *The Shield of Athena Family Services* is a non-profit community organization for victims of family violence. We have developed into a network of services that includes 2 centers, 1 in Montreal & 1 in Laval, a shelter and a multilingual community outreach department. Our intervention, support and prevention services are culturally and linguistically adapted to meet the needs of many ethno-cultural communities.

**Our services are available in the following languages: Arabic, Armenian, Amharic, Bengali, Creole, English, Farsi, French, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Punjabi, Spanish, Tamil, Turkish and Urdu.**

## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



When the organization was founded on March 13, 1991 our original mission was to inform women and communities of the impacts of family violence, the rights and recourses of victims, and the existing services that could help them. The way we did it was through the creation of a "made to measure" public awareness program in the language of origins.

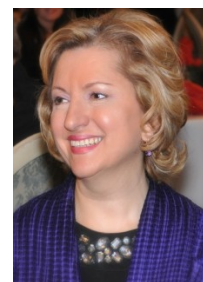
The use of a language that the community knew was very important for the transmission of any messages on such violence. Equal knowledge meant equal rights; everybody had to be able to access the same information, freely and without restraint. By providing this information in the language of origins, we guaranteed equality of access to services and social justice for women and their children.

Our multilingual community outreach model that developed is the Shield's trademark and this model was subsequently repeated with much success in many communities. Services for clients evolved afterwards, as a response to the needs of the victims who came out. This year, our multilingual community outreach program received the Prize of Excellence by the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services. On the one hand our mission was validated; on the other our vision to help women and children break the cycle of violence will only be possible through the ongoing awareness and support of the Board and all the members and supporters..

**Thank you for believing in us.**

**Melpa Kamateros, Founding member**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure as President, and on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, to thank you for your unwavering support of the Shield. Our Executive Director, Melpa Kamateros and the Shield's dedicated staff continue to provide the exceptional services and necessary programs for the victims of conjugal violence because of your encouragement and financial support. Together, as partners, we make a real difference in the lives of the victims!

This year has been a very dynamic and prolific year for the Shield's Board and dedicated staff. The recently recruited new Board members, who represent a diversity of origins and professional backgrounds, bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board. I thank them for their hard work and commitment to the Shield's goals and mission.

Unfortunately, the battle to eliminate conjugal violence is far from over and the Shield is at the forefront of this important battle. I especially want to stress the important role that men, such as Chris Nilan who was the Shield's 2012 art auction Patron, play in the elimination of conjugal violence. I encourage all of you to join us in this battle to eliminate conjugal violence by participating in the Shield's events, especially the Shield's upcoming general assembly and membership drive in June.

I thank you once again for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Shield's future events.

**The Honourable Eleni Bakopanos, PC**

## MESSAGE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES



Our evolving network which includes two offices and a shelter is constantly developing new services based on need and requests from clients. Specialized services include support groups in multiple languages, art therapy, parenting workshops and intervention offered by social workers in collaboration with the cultural intermediaries. We are proud to offer services in sixteen languages.

Language barriers create challenges for women experiencing family violence and information is not accessible for them. Access to services is limited and the transition to independence is difficult. Some have never been alone before. If they manage to break free from the abuse, many may not have the skills for independent living. These include: employment, managing finances, taking public transportation and even the ability to communicate in French or English.

Even when going to a shelter, they often feel lost and return to abusive situation. These are some of the issues facing our clients and it is our dedicated staff that help them work through these issues and overcome obstacles.

Thank you to all who support the Shield's efforts to intervene with this very vulnerable clientele. They fulfill an urgent and basic need. We appreciate and hope to always be able to count on your support.

**Betty Petropoulos , tsp**  
**Director of Social Services**

SINCE 1991

The Shield of Athena has helped thousands of women and children to regain their strength and rebuild their lives

### MONTREAL AND LAVAL OFFICES

Intervention, support and prevention services to women and children victims of family violence in several languages.

#### **Other specialized services:**

Accompaniments for advocacy and support, home visits, referrals, crisis intervention, economic assistance, legal clinics, follow up and home visits.

#### **Follow up services:**

Are available for clients after leaving the shelter in many languages.

Social workers are available at both offices by appointment for individual consultations.



### ATHENA'S HOUSE

Provides emergency shelter to women and their children in a safe and empowering environment.

The shelter is open 24/7. Clients can stay for a period of up to months.

During their stay, women and children benefit from individual consultations and specialized services, accompaniments, advocacy, art therapy, economic assistance, support groups and legal clinics.

### FREE FRENCH COURSES AT THE MONTREAL CENTER

Organized by the Shield of Athena Family Services for the MICC, Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés Culturelles for immigrants. **FOR INFORMATION: 514-274-8117**

### CALENDER 2013-2014

**April** : Easter economic activity for Shield's clients

**June, 5** : 2013-2014 Membership campaign launch at Bâton Rouge Restaurant

**June, 19**: Annual General Assembly

**September**: Volunteer Training

**November, 10**: 19th Annual Art Auction at Marché Bonsecours

**December**: Christmas economic activity for Shield's clients

**For more details regarding our activities, please consult our website at : [www.shieldofathena.com](http://www.shieldofathena.com)**

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2012-2013 ( APRIL, 1ST 2012 - MARCH 31ST, 2013)**

The goal of our community outreach program is to provide information to both victims and communities about family violence, Canadian laws and resources. Presentations and tools are available in French, English, and whenever needed, in the language of origin so as to ensure that everyone has equal access to information.

Coordinated by Maud Pontel and Polly Tsonis

### **Information Sessions and Focus Groups on Family Violence**

**286 people** were reached at **16 sessions**, with social insertion groups, The women's Y, Collège Bois de Boulogne, The Afghan Women's centre etc.

**9 sessions** were given in Urdu, Bengali and English on themes such as women's rights, family law, sponsorship fraud and conjugal violence for a new Public Awareness project; supported by **The Ministry of Immigration and Cultural Communities**.

**17 focus groups in 9 ethnic communities** were done in **8 languages** so as to have a better understanding of perceptions of violence and knowledge about resources and laws. A report was presented to **Justice Canada** that would be used to update a multilingual booklet entitled **"Abuse is wrong in any language"**



**St. Pius X Adult Education Centre**



**Maison d'Haïti**



### **VOLUNTEERS**

This year, there were **230 volunteers** who assisted with administrative work, social services, fundraising and special events or activities. Their contribution is greatly appreciated and makes a tremendous difference. Thank you!

A volunteer training session was given to new volunteers and individuals interested in learning more about family violence and the organization. A police officer was present to explain the police procedure in cases of conjugal violence.

### **A Year of Great Honours!**

**March 16, 2012** We were extremely honored when the **Prime Minister of Canada , Stephen Harper** came to our offices to meet the staff and discuss our multilingual services and culturally sensitive approach. Following his visit, a **press conference** was held, where he announced the Shield 's new 3 year prevention and outreach program on crimes committed in the name of honour, through **Status of Women Canada**.



**October 11, 2012** - We were pleasantly surprised and accepted with great emotion the **2012 Excellence Award from the Ministry of Health and Social Services of Québec**, in the category **"Support to vulnerable persons and groups"**. The award was presented to us by the Minister Dr Réjean Hebert at a ceremony held in Quebec City. We are extremely proud of our community outreach department and this great honor!



**February 1st, 2013:** The Shield hosted a special ceremony in Honor of **30 Recipients of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal**. Supporters in the categories of **volunteerism, philanthropy, community outreach & services delivery** and **media partnership**, were honored for their outstanding contribution to the Shield's **mission** towards raising more awareness on the issue of family violence and providing services to victims. The evening's special guest was **the Honorable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Canada**. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne. At the same time, it honors Canadians for their significant contributions and achievements to their community and to our country.





**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
SPONSORS 2012**

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Bâton Rouge de la  
Montagne  
Chris Ann Nakis  
Dion Durrel & Associés  
Dionysia Zerbisias, J.S.C  
Fraser Milner Casgrain  
Honda Ste Rose  
JSS Medical Research  
Korres Canada  
Landau Sacamoto Inc.  
Madisons New York Grill &  
Bar  
Omnitrans  
Paul Kamateros & family  
Philhobar Design Canada  
Ltd.  
Planète Mobile, Evan  
Kioussis  
Suzy Shier  
Urgel Bourgie

**FUNDRAISING & EVENTS**

YOUR DONATION AND PARTICIPATION IN OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES ARE IMPORTANT!  
TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SHIELDOFATHENA.COM](http://WWW.SHIELDOFATHENA.COM)

**2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**



Chris Ann Nakis, owner of Baton Rouge de la Montagne and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, Chairperson of the event, welcomed nearly 170 guests on Thursday, June 7, for the Shield of Athena 2012-2013 Membership Campaign Launch. \$27,000 was raised for the organization's multilingual support, prevention and intervention services to victims of family violence.



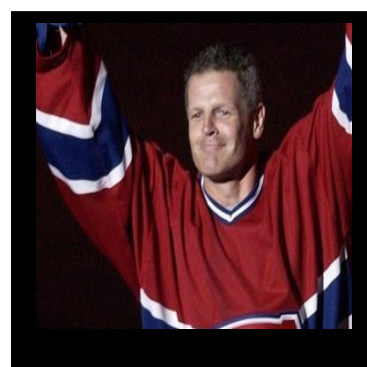
Thank you to Phil Shuchat from Comedy Nest and Spidey Magic for their wonderful show

**18TH ANNUAL ART AUCTION**

Thank you to the **supporters** and **400 guests** that attended last year's annual art Auction on **November 11, 2012** at **Marché Bonsecours**. They helped us raise **\$83,000.00** for women and children, victims of family violence.

Thank you to our auctioneers **Eramelinda Boquer** and **Jeremy Filosa**, to all participating artists, sponsors and silent auction donors.

**A very special thank you to Chris Nilan, patron of the 18th Annual Art Auction**



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Please join us for our 19th Annual Art Auction  
Sunday November 10, 2013 at Marché Bonsecours**

**For ticket inquiries & Sponsorship options please email us at [bouclierdathena@bellnet.ca](mailto:bouclierdathena@bellnet.ca)  
For more information please check our website at [www.shieldofathena.com](http://www.shieldofathena.com)**