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Dear friend,

I have been a supporter of the **Shield of Athena family services** for the past 8 years. During this period of time, I have seen the dedication of the organization's board members, volunteers and staff who offer life changing services to women and children, victims of family violence. As chairman of this year's 19th Annual Art Auction, I would like to give you the opportunity to support this wonderful organization through participating at our spectacular event and taking a stand against family violence.

This year's Auction will be held on <u>Sunday November 10 at Marché Bonsecours</u>. Guests will bid on a beautiful variety of paintings from local and international artists. We will also have a Silent Auction like no other, where exquisite pieces of jewelry, sports memorabilia, certificates to Montreal's finest restaurants and much more will be available.

A beautiful souvenir book is printed every year and distributed to the hundreds of guests present so as to commemorate our event. I ask that you look at the form that we have attached and chose one of the many sponsorship or advertisement opportunities that are available. We greatly value your support and in appreciation of your generous contribution, you will receive certain benefits such as free tickets and great visibility for your business, before, after and during the event.

From its grass roots beginnings in 1991, the Shield has now expanded its network of multilingual services to include 2 centers and an emergency shelter home, La Maison d'Athéna. The SOAFS offers support and intervention in over **15 languages** to 600 women and children annually at the centers; free housing is also provided to another **100 women and children** annually at the shelter. Thousands of people are reached through the information sessions, pamphlets, videos and media programs given through its multilingual community outreach department.

With your help, we hope to quickly realize our next goal which is to provide another resource, a **Second Step Transition Home** to the women and children we help. The need for this second home is pressing as many women, particularly mothers with their children, continue to experience great financial strain, and need affordable housing and security for some time after they leave an abusive relationship.

Lastly, I thank all of our longstanding friends and I look forward to meeting all new supporters that will join us at our **19th Annual Art Auction**. I am certain that you will have a wonderful time all in support of a very worthy cause! Please call us at 514-274-8117 if you have any questions regarding the Shield or our upcoming event.

Sincerely,

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Evan Kiousis; CEO & Founder of Planète Mobile Honorary President of the Shield of Athena Family Services

Montréal C.P. 25 Ville Mont-Royal, Mont-Royal Qc H3P 3B8 • Tél.: 514-274-8117 • Fax: 514-274-7591 Laval C.P. 89022 Succursale P. Place 100, Laval Qc H7W 5K2 • Tél.: 450-688-6584 • Fax: 450-688-8524 bouclierdathena@bellnet.ca • www.shieldofathena.com • BN 13882 3471 RR0001