LA RUE DES FEMMES

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PRESS RELEASE

LA RUE DES FEMMES' FIRST HOUSE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVING WOMEN LIVING IN A STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

On May 18, La rue des Femmes celebrated both the 20th anniversary of Olga House, which provides shelter and care for women experiencing homelessness, and the more than 20-year involvement of the Velan family, the organization's founding patrons.

"I first met Karel Velan in 2000," said Léonie Couture, C. M., C. Q., President, Founder and Executive Director of La rue des Femmes. She added: "All it took to capture his generous heart was a few words about the serious relational wounds and the suffering of women living in a state of homelessness, and their immense need for inclusion, love and healing. That was the start of the Velan family's long and fruitful commitment. Two years later, in 2002, Olga, Karel's great ally and life companion, honoured us with the gift of her name for our first house: Olga House."

During this intimate celebration attended by friends of La rue des Femmes and several of the organization's participants, Tom Velan, son of Olga and Karel, took the opportunity to present Ms. Couture with the family's annual donation as part of the *More than a Roof... Healing Homelessness* major fundraising campaign. The gift reaffirmed the family's support and conviction that homelessness is a condition that can be healed.

A visibly moved Ms. Couture warmly thanked the Velan family: "I have no words to express my deepest gratitude. Thank you for your unwavering support."