For immediate release

LA RUE DES FEMMES ANNUAL GALA: $342,287 RAISED TO HEAL WOMEN LIVING IN A STATE OF HOMELESSNESS

NEWS RELEASE

Left to right: Sheena Toso, Natacha Menard, Claudia Boies, Geneviève Brin, Hue-Nhan Wuong, Stéphanie Renauld, Sophie Lemieux, Catherine Proulx-Lemay, Léonie Couture, Lisa Giannone, Lucie Calisto and Marie Doyon.

More than 350 people gathered at magnificent Marché Bonsecours on November 15 for the 12th edition of the Gala for Relational Health, organized by La rue des Femmes and its Foundation. Under Honorary Chairs Sheena Toso, Regional Vice-President, Eastern Canada, RBC Insurance, and Lisa Giannone, President and Chief Operating Officer, BFL Canada, this fundraising event, which also aims to raise awareness in the Montréal business community about relational health and the harsh realities of women living in a state of homelessness, raised $342,287 to provide all the day-to-day care and services these women need to heal and reclaim their lives.

"La rue des Femmes was built on the recognition that trauma and post-traumatic stress can impair relational abilities to the point of leading to the loss of relational health and to homelessness, a serious health condition that we need to better understand in order to improve its treatment and healing. And that's what we've been doing for the past 30 years."

– Léonie Couture, C.M, C.Q, President, Founder and Executive Director, La rue des Femmes

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Catherine Proulx-Lemay and Léonie Couture © Pierre Longtin

The evening, whose theme was "Let's Shine Together," was marked by intense and touching moments, including messages from Catherine Proulx-Lemay, the organization's spokesperson for the past 10 years, and from Annah, a La rue des Femmes participant for several years who paid heartfelt tribute to the support workers who helped her regain her life.

The huge windows of Marché Bonsecours were adorned with the works of the participants: cardboard houses, symbolizing both fragility (cardboard is flimsy) and ingenuity (it is easily accessible and insulating). Some were colourful; others featured photos or words. Each of these ephemeral homes was unique, reflecting resilience and creativity, just like the woman who created it.

About La rue des Femmes

La rue des Femmes, a non-profit organization, is a relational health institute founded by Léonie Couture in 1994 to shelter and care for women living in a state of homelessness.

Every year, La rue des Femmes welcomes more than 1,500 women, providing 4,000 hours of specialized care (counselling, psychotherapy, art therapy, and more), 50,000 hours of relational health intervention, 102,000 meals, 21,500 overnight stays, and the services of 67 relational healthcare workers.

About relational health

Relational health is a state of profound well-being that promotes a feeling of inner security, connection and happiness with oneself and others.

For questions or interview requests:

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