



SERVING VULNERABLE WOMEN SINCE 1977

FACT SHEET

The Backstory – Who Was Doris

Chez Doris was founded in response to a heartfelt cry of help from a young woman named Doris who was struggling to survive on the streets of Montreal.

In the 1970s, a social worker began interviewing homeless women in Montreal to identify their immediate needs. Among them was Doris, doing her best to survive in a precarious situation. Little is known of her life before her arrival in Montreal, other than the fact that she was a sister, a friend to many and mother of four. Alone, isolated, destitute and battling alcoholism, Doris found herself homeless, part of a growing population of unhoused women across the city. When asked what these women needed most, Doris said they needed a safe place to stay, where they could take refuge, free from judgment.

Tragically, Doris was found dead on November 2, 1974—the victim of senseless violence. Her murder remains unsolved. And while she never found the sanctuary she so desperately sought, her words inspired the creation of Chez Doris. And for the past 47 years, this vital organization has offered women a safe, dignified and confidential refuge.

Thanks to the generous support of the community and volunteers and backed by the dedicated teams of professional women, Chez Doris continues to grow, broadening the services it provides to meet the needs of vulnerable women.

Chez Doris, the Mission:

To support women living in precarious situations and help foster their independence so they can reach their full potential.

Women are welcomed in the spirit of inclusivity and respect and provided with a wide range of services delivered in safe spaces where they can get the help and support they need, without fear of judgment.

At Chez Doris, women benefit from personal comfort and practical assistance in coping with life's many challenges and difficulties. **Chez Doris respects the fact that every woman defines success in her own unique way.**

Services

Chez Doris was founded in 1977 as a day shelter for women in difficulty, originally providing only breakfast and lunch. Today, following years of steady growth, Chez Doris meets the needs of over 1,700 annually vulnerable women, with support services provided by a dedicated team of caring professionals in several locations across Montreal.

Each point of service has its responds to specific needs to supporting women on their journey to autonomy. To that end, we take particular care to adapt our services to meet the specific needs of each woman, developing individual follow-up plans.

In each of our sites, we have a monthly participant users committee that helps ensure we involve our women in the decision-making process, implementing their suggestions for improvement in a myriad of ways.

DAY CENTRE – CAROLE ET ANDY HARPER - 1430, RUE CHOMEDEY ST.

- Professional psycho-social support
- Safe rest area and dormitory (ten beds)
- Meals, snacks and showers
- Indigenous collective kitchens
- Distribution of personal hygiene kits and clothing
- Access to a medical clinic
- Socio-recreational activities
- Cultural activities (Indigenous collective kitchen, cooking workshop, soapstone carving, etc.)
- Pre-employability programs
- Open 8 AM – 7 :30 PM

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE - 1445, LAMBERT-CLOSSE ST.

- Financial management program
- Research and housing assistance programs
- Indigenous programs
- Monthly food assistance
- Community outreach
- Reintegration program (return to school or the job market, in-house training, etc.) with logistical support (transit pass, purchase of books or a computer, etc.)
- Socio-recreational activities

ELSEPTH MCCONNEL NIGHT SHELTER – 1437, CHOMEDEY ST.

- Dormitory (24 beds) and common areas with support staff
- Access to showers and available nightwear
- Safe changing rooms
- Evening meals and snacks
- Space for two pets
- Available by reservation for up to 15 consecutive nights

BASH SHETTY RESIDENCE – 1565 -1575, SAINT-ANDRÉ ST.

- 20 single rooms
- Each woman enjoys her own room with a private bathroom
- Furnished common areas, shared kitchen and patio
- Rent is fixed at no more than 25% of the resident's income
- Permanent presence of support and security staff – 24/7

MARCELLE AND JEAN COUTU RESIDENCE – 2233, DE CHAMPLAIN ST.

- 26 studios for independent women
- Each apartment offers a kitchen, bathroom and living area
- Common areas include a community room, a laundry room, storage space, bike racks and a rear terrace
- Individual follow-up program
- Socio-recreational activities
- Rent is fixed at no more than 25% of the resident's income
- On-site daytime support staff on weekdays combined with security staff, nights and weekend

SAINT-HUBERT RESIDENCE – 1617-1621, SAINT-HUBERT ST.

- Currently under renovation - scheduled to open early 2026
- Transitional residence for vulnerable women
- Four-storey building offering 19 rooms, each with a private or semi-private bathroom
- Common areas, including a dining room, commercial kitchen, several lounges, an outdoor terrace, activity room and laundry facilities
- Includes offices for reception and staff, plus a dedicated room for meetings and other activities
- A heritage restoration project is also slated to preserve the unique architectural character of the façade
- Full time support and security staff

FULFORD RESIDENCE – 1221, GUY ST.

- Scheduled to open in 2028
- Day centre plus a transitional residence
- 20 transitional bedrooms with shared bathrooms
- Common spaces for group activities that foster togetherness, sharing, learning and group synergy
- Environment designed to stimulate interventions that cater to varied client needs, including psychological support through active listening, direct counselling, and more confidential, one-on-one encounters
- Day Centre will be open and accessible, 24/7

Chez Doris in numbers

- Nearly 100 employees
- 230 individual volunteers
- Meals served to 120 women per day
- Five active service locations —and first transitional residence to open early 2026
- 30% of women using our services are Indigenous
- 45% of women are currently housed, but living in precarity

In 2023-2024:

- 1303 different women used at least one of a Chez Doris across its various service points
- 14,500 day-shelter services used by nearly 1,000 women
- 8,000 overnight stays at the night shelter, for nearly 500 women
- 36,000 meals served
- 10,000 snacks provided
- 6,500 showers provided.
- 7,500 hygiene kits distributed
- 5,000 distributions of emergency clothing
- 2,500 grocery cards distributed, for a total value of \$134,600.
- 550 medical appointments made
- 5,000 hours volunteered

In 2024–2025:

- 1,700 different women used at least one of Chez Doris's services across its various service points
- 23,000 daytime shelter visits, by close to 1,000 women
- 8,000 overnight stays at the night shelter, serving nearly 500 women
- 52,000 meals served
- 12,000 snacks provided
- 7,000 showers offered
- 7,000 hygiene kits distributed
- 5,000 emergency clothing distributions
- 2,000 grocery gift cards distributed, totaling \$114,600 in value
- 900 medical appointments completed
- 6,000 volunteer hours contributed