

Marie-Yasmine Auclert is the Victor Obadia Humanitarian Trophy laureate for 2021.

Marie has consistently dedicated her heart and soul to serving our community. Wherever she sees a need and believes she can make a difference she tries to help. She is particularly attuned to the condition of women in emerging countries and in the DC area.

-VOLUNTEER ANIMATOR of GRE (Groupe Reflexion Ecoute): since 2013, Marie Yasmine co-leads the GRE (together with the founder Claudine Dussert), a reflection and exchange group part of the Washington Accueil Association. Inclusion, respect, kindness as well as the quality of the presentations and discussions have been a hallmark of this group who help the francophone community to feel good and cared for when away from home.

-CO-LEADER OF WAA CHARITY CLUB: Marie Yasmine is also co-leading for the past 6 years the Charity Club of WAA (with founder Mariane Hart). The Club's goal is to inspire the francophone community around DC to give back by relaying demands from various organizations working to alleviate homelessness and hunger (Friendship Place, food banks), domestic violence (House of Ruth) or providing care to children and families in need of education, healthcare or safety (St Jude Hospital for children, The Inn at NIH, AMAPO, Baan Dek). Each year she organizes different fund-raising drives or collects food or clothes for the needy. She writes articles, organizes conferences, and talks about poverty in DC to raise awareness.

-VOLUNTEER LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MAYAN HANDS Marie Yasmine is a local representative for the ONG Mayan Hands since 2014. For 25 years this nonprofit has been dedicated to providing economic and educational opportunities to Mayan women and girls in Guatemala. Passionate about all weaving techniques, Marie has been selling their beautiful traditional handmade works in various fairs around DC and at the Banque Mondiale, BID , OAS and Takoma Street Fair. Marie strives to raise money for women who now hope for a better future and to come out of extreme poverty while educating their children. She also financially supports their school scholarship program.

Marie lived in Brazil as a child, then moved to Portugal and France. She moved with her husband to various professional postings in France (Paris, Cherbourg, Verdun), Canada, Germany and the USA. She arrived in the USA in 1998. Marie is a FLES French teacher (teaching French as a foreign language in elementary school) and worked for years at Alliance Française, teaching adults. She reorganized the French section for the continuous learning department at BID (Banque Inter- Américaine de Développement), starting in 2008. In every place she lived she organized reading and craft groups, participated in parents school organizations, welcomed people to the area and promoted French culture.

She is the spouse of François, the mother of 4 Rochambeau graduates, and the grandmother of 5 grand kids. She is very appreciated in the Franco-American community around DC where she has many friends who all recognize her kindness, modesty, and good energy; as well as her hard and consistent work to make a positive difference wherever she can.