



# *Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina*

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

Stephen Lewis' motivational remarks at our Dinner last year propelled our members to do even more than ever over the last 12 months for the African grannies. Knowing our efforts were helping to Turn the Tides of AIDS in Africa encouraged us to continue working hard and to try new things ~ we added a second floor of 'treasures' at Granny's Attic Garage Sale, hosted a wildly successful Kazuri Jewellery Party, and even participated in a book launch.

It is gratifying to see how our efforts help to improve the lives of the grandmothers and orphans in their care. This annual report provides highlights of the many activities in which we were engaged during 2009/2010.

### Fundraising Events

#### Granny's Attic Garage Sale



Garage sales are a great way to generate funds for the African grannies. Despite the intensity of the work, our enthusiastic members took shifts for set-up, worked at the booths and in Granny's Kitchen on the day of the sale, cleaning up and hauling away the leftovers. With a partnership being discussed, we invited the Regina Area Girl Guides to set up their display.

Many thanks to members and friends who worked so hard to make this 3<sup>rd</sup> garage sale so successful.

#### Scrabble® for Africa

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> **S.C.R.A.B.B.L.E. F.O.R. A.F.R.I.C.A.** event was held on October 25, 2009. We had 84 people playing the friendly game, and a few supporters who came to 'cheer'. Players had help from the local Scrabble club, and this year's Celebrity Grandmother, Ruth Smillie, Artistic Director of Globe Theatre, provided some of the fun. Cash and in-kind donations allowed us to provide great prizes for the players. Of course, Granny's Kitchen was a busy place ~ with help from some Girl Guides, we kept the players supplied with coffee, tea, and homemade goodies. As always, our members stepped forward and eagerly embraced their volunteer roles ~ many thanks to each and every one of you who planned and carried out the event.

## Jewellery Party

The Kazuri Jewellery Party was a hit! This “small and beautiful” product provides the means to self-sufficiency for many disadvantaged women - single women, widows, and women with special needs. Proceeds from the sale of this jewellery not only supports the Kenyan women, it also becomes part of the support the Stephen Lewis Foundation provides in many communities in sub-Saharan Africa. The other merchandise available, pashmina scarves, were sold out very quickly that afternoon!



## Wintergreen Fine Craft Market

The Wintergreen Fine Craft Market continues to be an excellent venue for us to sell our merchandise and to promote our organization. The 2009 event exceeded all expectations, due to the availability of the Kazuri jewellery, the Kenana knitted toys, and our beautiful hand-made tote bags. We'll be back next year!

## An African Evening Fundraising Dinner 2010

A new location, a new menu, and a different approach to entertainment combined to make our 4<sup>th</sup> annual African Evening Fundraising Dinner a great success with nearly 400 tickets sold! With deep passion, guest speaker Aissatou Diajhaté, Director of Programmes for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, described the funding process, the importance of grassroots organizations working in communities, and told stories from the first International Grandmothers Gathering on African soil held a few weeks before our Dinner.



The Silent Auction was a fabulous success, beyond our wildest expectations. Dinner guests found a wide variety of items on which to bid from a cameo role in Gail Bowen's next book, baskets of spa products, a snowboard and boots, and a gift certificate towards a granite countertop. The Granny Marketplace did a brisk business selling African-made jewellery and soft toys, as well as our signature tote bags.

We extend our thanks to the generous companies that provided cash and in-kind sponsorship to help offset expenses. As with all our events, this one was successful thanks in large part to the efforts of our members ~ thank you so much for your creativity and your hard work. Following on the success of this Dinner, we have booked the venue for next year and are busy securing a speaker and determining the rest of the program.

## Outreach and Education

### Speaking Opportunities

- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Aboriginal Aids Conference
- Celebration Lutheran Church Senior Women's Group
- International Women's Day

### Display Booth

- Granny's Attic Garage Sale
- Women's History Month
- Scrabble for Africa
- Kazuri Jewellery Party
- Wintergreen Fine Craft Sale
- International Women's Day
- G4G Sponsor Recognition Reception

### Other

2010 was a year of firsts for G4G Regina. Two of our members attended the signing of "Osemo~The Rainbow Zebra" at the invitation of author, Karen Olsen. Half the proceeds from the book are donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

## Communication

We're on Facebook! G4G Regina took the plunge and used Facebook as a way to spread the word about the Dinner and about our organization in general. We still used traditional forms of media such as television (interviews on Access' Talk of the Town and CTV's News at Noon), radio (CBC's Down on the Corner, CJTR Community Radio), several websites, and print.



The G4G Regina website is an important communication tool. Our thanks go to Ashley Boha, our volunteer webmaster, who designed the original site, and now keeps it up-to-date.

## Merchandise

The Merchandising committee has three members – Janet Bailey, Gail Greenberg, Rita Brann – in addition to the chair, Susan Whittick. The Committee had two formal meetings and two other informal discussions/workbees.

In 2009, the committee established a principle of trying to support the work of women in sub-Saharan African countries. In following this principle, we sourced merchandise from three different African organizations this year.

We held a dedicated jewellery party at the Girl Guide Centre, selling **Kazuri** (Kenya) jewellery supplied by a grandmothers' group in Ontario. The remainder of the jewellery

was for sale at Wintergreen. Unsold product was returned to Ontario. Sales were strong at both venues. We have re-ordered for Wintergreen 2010.

We placed two orders for **Kenana Knitters'** (Kenya) wool stuffed toys and puppets, a total of approximately 100 items. They were available for purchase at the Scrabble event, Wintergreen and the African Dinner. We placed one order for recycled glass jewellery from the **Global Mamas** (Ghana) fair trade co-operative. These pieces sold very well at the African dinner. Profits from these items have varied from 30% to 50%.



Our range of merchandise also included locally produced items. Thanks to the creative skills of Shirley Jozsa and Marilyn Shivak, they and a team of volunteers handcrafted approximately 60 beautiful tote bags. These cost less than \$10.00 to make, but were sold for \$40.00 each. Shirley also made scarves, smaller bags and aprons for our merchandising efforts. We placed a new order for 200 packs of Grandmother and Child note cards, which continue to be a popular item, and continue to sell other individual cards, prints and children's books.

Many thanks to my enthusiastic committee members.

## Member Learning



- ✓ **September:** Denise Tochor spoke about her 2-week holiday in Ivory Coast.
- ✓ **October:** Sheila Fahlman reported on and shared information learned at the speakers' bureau session in Toronto.
- ✓ **November:** A Grandmother's Tribe (film)
- ✓ **January:** Zebiba Bashir spoke about what it means to be a woman in Somalia, and the joy of raising her children (especially her daughter) in Canada.
- ✓ **February:** A Granny Quiz helped us to learn more about sub-Saharan Africa – its geography, its people, and the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.
- ✓ **April:** Through 'Engineers Without Borders', Reginan Vicki Nelson volunteered in Zambia ~ her presentation highlighted her experience living with a local family and working in the community.
- ✓ **May:** Darryl Sveinson, a teacher at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, outlined the work he has done in Africa with Dr. Jane Goodall and environmental/leadership education.

## Advocacy

The National Advocacy Group worked hard during the fall and winter for the passage of Bill C-393, an act to amend the Patent Act in order to allow the shipping of drugs for international humanitarian purposes at affordable below-patent prices (Canada's Access to Medicines Regime.) The Bill was passed in the Senate, and was awaiting passage in the House. The wait ended with the prorogation of Parliament. The Advocacy Committee is determining the best next steps to be taken.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina Annual Activity Report – July, 2009 to June, 2010

Right now 38 million children in sub-Saharan Africa don't go to school; the majority of these children are girls. The African grandmothers have told us that sending the children and young people in their care to school is a top priority. 1 Goal Education for All (EFA) is a campaign to urge world leaders to meet the Universal Education Millennium Goal, which is that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls, will be able to complete primary schooling. For details on advocacy initiatives, please go to the website: [www.grandmotherscampaign.org/advocacy-issues.html](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/advocacy-issues.html).



## Other Activities

A highlight of the year was our first ever Sponsor Recognition Reception. Held at the Regina Floral Conservatory, we hosted some of the major sponsors who have supported our events over the years. Many of our members were there to show their thanks ~ all the while enjoying a sip of wine (generously donated by a couple of members), cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, and wonderful home baking.



We applied and were approved for New Horizons for Seniors Program Community Participation and Leadership funding! The funds were used to purchase a new lightweight tabletop display board, and a laptop computer and data projector. Members will receive public speaking training, and plans are underway to make presentations at schools, to service clubs, and more.



## Executive Committee

Chair	Sheila Fahlman	Advocacy Chair	Penthes Rubrecht
Co-chair	Judy Cormier	Education Chair	Laureen Graham
Secretary	Rosanne Glass	Membership Chair	Arleen Cornish
Treasurer	Barb Quine	Merchandise Chair	Susan Whittick
Member-at-Large	Gail Greenberg		

*Thank You*

To all our members, family, friends, supporters, and sponsors ~ a heartfelt thank you for making this past year so successful for our Regina group.

***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”***  
***-- Margaret Mead***