

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

Annual Activity Report

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012



Who We Are

The mission of Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers (G4G) Regina is to raise funds to help alleviate the plight that grandmothers in Africa face as they care for children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. Fundraising is done solely to support the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). Additionally, G4G members make every effort to promote the Stephen Lewis Foundation in its endeavours to help alleviate the suffering caused by the sub-Saharan African HIV/AIDS pandemic. Finally, the members of G4G aspire to increase knowledge of the African continent: geography, history, and current conditions to more fully understand the context of the grandmothers and orphans in Africa, and the impact of the work we do to support the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

G4G Regina celebrated its 5th Anniversary in 2011, and as an organization, continues to grow and evolve.

Affiliation with the Stephen Lewis Foundation

G4G Regina abides by the conditions and stipulations of the SLF when fundraising. All donations go to the SLF with donor cards stamped "Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina". Receipts for income tax purposes are issued by the SLF. Proceeds of the fund-raising activities go to the SLF.

G4G's relationship with the SLF has evolved over the past year with development of Regional Coordinator positions to liaise with groups across the country. The Regional Coordinator reports to the membership on the activities and developments in the SLF. G4G Regina is honoured to have our past chair, Sheila Fahlman, serve as the Grandmothers Regional Liaison for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The relationship with SLF has further evolved with the functions of fundraising and national advocacy being separated. This has resulted in the advent of a new national organization, Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN,) dedicated to advocacy. G4G does not have a membership in GRAN.

Contributions and donations to the Stephen Lewis Foundation since the inception of Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina are approaching \$300,000.

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Executive Committee 2011 – 2012

The executive committee met quarterly in 2011-2012 to consider the evolving nature of G4G Regina and other matters. The composition of the Executive Committee has evolved from a single to a co-chair model over the past year. Some key actions of the executive committee were to purchase technology and an accounting program to assist with financial record keeping and transactions in our growing organization. A Program Planning committee was established in response to a member survey to consider fundraising options and a time-line for events through 2014. A review of the Guiding Principles and Policy and Procedures of G4G has been started with a review of financial processes as the first step.

Executive Committee

Co-chairs: Marion Tudor, Judy Cormier

Past chair: Sheila Fahlman

Secretary: Rita Brann

Treasurer: Elvira Beday

Merchandise Coordinator: Susan Whittick, 2012 incumbent Sheila McKague

Membership Coordinator: Arleen Cornish

Sponsorship Coordinator: Mary Wallace

Communications Coordinator:

Vacant, 2012 incumbent Marianne Walsh



Signing up to become a new member!

Membership and Meetings

G4G general membership meetings were held monthly with the exception of July and December 2011. Our educational component included four guest speakers, arranged by Laureen Graham, a video presentation and presentation by the Regional Coordinator.

A \$20.00 fee is mandatory on becoming a member of G4G Regina. Members must renew their membership with the annual membership fee due following the AGM in June. Membership fees are used to support the general operations of the organization.

The Membership Committee is continuing to evolve in its understanding of its mandate to our valued members. Getting to know each other is fundamental to working together. We have been working over the year to make our meetings welcoming and easy for newcomers to quickly have a sense of belonging; and, to strengthen the commitment and involvement of current members. In the areas of recruitment and making ourselves visible in the community, our new brochures were placed at 100 locations around the city in February. Our distinctive G4G t-shirts are steadily being purchased by members to wear at our own events and those in which we participate, to raise public awareness of our work with the Stephen Lewis Foundation, such as Wintergreen and the Cathedral Village Arts Festival. At the 2012 African Dinner, we signed up 13 new members at our "Join the Grannies" table. This brings our numbers up to 132. As we are not only about fundraising, but relationships among the Grandmothers, we are trying to be attuned to the needs of members as they encounter life's joys, milestones and challenges. We look forward to another year of collegial work together, in solidarity with the Grandmothers of Africa.

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Member Shirley Jozsa checking on items at the garage sale.



Guests viewing and bidding on Silent Auction items at the Dinner

*"We should be helping because this is the story of the triumph of the human spirit over the most extraordinary obstacles."
~ Ilana Landsberg-Lewis*

Merchandise

Merchandise was sold on five different occasions this year – at the Lumsden Duck Derby, our Scrabble fundraiser, Wintergreen, Seniors Showcase, our African Dinner evening, at the Cathedral Village Arts Festival Street fair, and from time to time directly to our members. In addition, by setting up our display and selling merchandise, G4G members have an opportunity to talk to non-members about our mission and organization.

Over the year we have sold: 110 items from Kenana Knitters in Kenya; 43 items of jewellery from Global Mamas in Ghana, 62 aprons and pillows from Tribal textiles in Zambia, 55 tote bags made by our members, 70 novelty scarves made by our members; and 35 End of the Year Teacher Donation cards. Net revenue from these items was \$2,679.

The work of the Merchandise Committee continues to evolve with new merchandise becoming available in the up-coming year, including textile items from Dsenyo, a women's social enterprise group in Malawi, and jewellery from Salone Style, a jewellery design co-operative in Sierra Leone, where a young woman from Regina is involved in the training. New ideas are always being considered by the committee and we welcome suggestions from all members. By purchasing merchandise from women's co-operatives in Africa, we support the women directly, and indirectly with the profits from our sales going to fund other projects through the SLF.

Sponsorship

The Sponsorship Committee has paved the way to another type of fundraising for G4G. We have engaged the community in supporting our efforts. We have learned a lot along the way.

As Stephen Lewis says. "It's hard work raising money. It's repetitive; it can be boring; it's frustrating. But, it's the indispensable heart of everything we do and stand for."

After developing Terms of Reference, a decision was made to focus sponsorship efforts on the 2012 fundraising dinner in addition to the sponsorship support received for the annual Scrabble event. We created a sponsor appeal package and emphasized our guest speaker, Sally Armstrong, and the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The proceeds from sponsorship were \$12,920 in addition to \$3,800 of in-kind support. Sponsorship conversations also contributed to raising awareness in the community.

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Speakers' Group

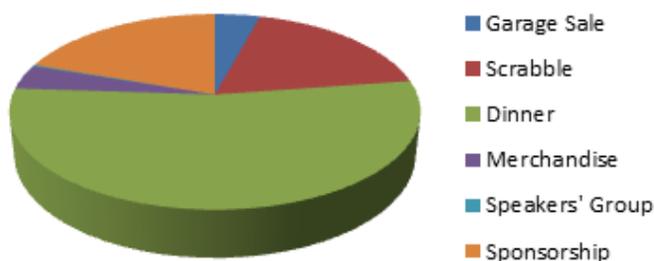
Community

We responded to the following requests this year: St. James United Church in Wolseley in August, with Judy Cormier and Sheila Fahlman speaking to approximately 30 members of the congregation; Heritage United Church, Regina in November, with Sheila Fahlman speaking to 12 members of the UCW about the Foundation and the work of our group; Christ the King Church in Regina in April with Marion Tudor speaking to 15 members of the CWL. Honoraria and donations totaling \$150 were received and contributed to the funds forwarded to the SLF.

Education

A letter was sent out in early October, 2011, to all school principals. This resulted in several school presentations. In February, 2012, we attended the Teacher's Convention trade show. This was great publicity for our cause and resulted in a few more presentations. There were three additional requests for the fall term.

Fundraising Net Revenue



There were 1.8 million AIDS-related deaths worldwide in 2010; 1.2 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

~ World Health Organization

Events

Granny's Attic Garage Sale

Granny's Attic Garage Sale changed venues this year and was held September 24, 2011 at St. Paul's Cathedral. No garage sale will be held in 2012.

Net income: \$2,773.66

Scrabble

The Scrabble for Africa fundraiser was held on October 23, 2011 at All Saints Anglican Church, 142 Massey Road. The same venue has been booked for October 21, 2012.

Net Income: \$12,115.35

Jabula! An African Evening

The 6th annual *Jabula! An African Evening* was held at Evraz Place, May 12, 2012. We were pleased to present Sally Armstrong as our guest speaker. Her words were an inspiration to all. We thank her for waiving her fee. This year we enjoyed Tribal Vibes who played to set the mood as guests entered the room and enjoyed cocktails and then entertained us with a variety of percussion instruments, vocals and dance. The food, the silent auction, the decorations, and the program all combined to make a very successful and entertaining evening. The same venue has been booked for May, 2012.

Net Income: \$35,123.45