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PRAIRIE REGION UPDATE

The Prairie Region Update is intended to keep grandmothers groups across the Prairies connected to each other and informed about the SLF Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

December 2014

NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

An Offer From Barbara Coloroso

Barbara Coloroso is an international bestselling author and for the past 38 years an internationally recognized speaker and consultant on parenting, teaching, school discipline, positive school climate, bullying, grieving, nonviolent conflict resolution, and restorative justice.

Barbara has just completed seven years as a board member with the Stephen Lewis Foundation. As a parting 'gift' to the SLF, Barbara has offered to do between 10 and 15 talks, anywhere in Canada. She won't need accommodations or hosting. Her publisher will arrange to have books shipped either to an individual or to a local bookstore (depending on the preferences of the grandmothers group). Barbara will do a book signing and is happy to do media as well. The publisher will supply all of the promotional materials in an editable format so each group can put in details for their event. She knows the Foundation and she knows the Grandmothers Campaign and can certainly speak to both.

If your group is interested in having Barbara speak at an event in your community, please contact Yasmin at the Grandmothers Campaign as soon as possible at ymussa@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

2015 SLF Calendars

We've heard such wonderful feedback from across the country, and are so thankful that this idea by the grandmothers who went on the Africa trip came to fruition. Think of the calendar as a resource – it's full of information and beautiful quotes.

A couple of groups have asked about the price of the calendar, as they feel in their communities it would be better to sell them for less. We have been trying to keep it fair for those purchasing the calendars across the country, and encouraging groups to continue to sell them at \$20. However, with the holidays approaching, and from the feedback you have given us, we believe a reduced price might be beneficial! If your group would like to, please feel free to reduce the price to \$15 for the month of December. Come January you are welcome to sell the calendar for up to \$10 (we just ask that it doesn't go lower than \$5, to make sure we are able to recoup production and shipping costs).

When you have sold your calendars, simply submit a cheque 'payable to the SLF' for the total amount you received.

Books!

Grandmothers: Africa's Unsung Heroes In 2010, the Stephen Lewis Foundation convened a Roundtable with fifteen of the African community-based organizations with whom we partner. The purpose of the Documentation Roundtable (as it became known) was to build the capacity of each organization to chronicle their work through a year-long project of peer learning, experience sharing and skills building.

Three of these organizations – ROTOM in Uganda, PENAF in Kenya, and GAPA in South Africa – worked closely to capture the unique experiences, fears and hopes of the grandmothers they support, through a soon-to-be-released book called, **Grandmothers: Africa's Unsung Heroes**. The book they have written uses storytelling and photography to document a diversity of experiences and build lasting connections between grandmothers across Africa.

Grandmothers: Africa's Unsung Heroes will be available on consignment to grandmothers groups in early 2015 as a fundraiser. You'll be able to pre-order – think about someone in your group becoming your local contact for this wonderful book when it is ready to be distributed. More news to follow...

The Grandmothers Campaign book: Last year, interviews were conducted with grandmothers groups from across the country, and with some grandmothers on the continent. Writing this book is a huge undertaking, and the work continues. The SLF will launch the book, possibly in the fall of 2015 as a lead-up to the 10th anniversary of the Grandmothers Campaign the following year. Watch for more details.

Tribunal Film Screenings



Public screenings of the Tribunal film have been, and continue to be held across the country to rave reviews – and generous donations. Many of you viewed it at the Prairie Region Gathering in Saskatoon in September. Others saw it in Winnipeg at Grands 'n' More Winnipeg's October event held in collaboration with the Manitoba Teachers' Society. G4G Regina is working on a film screening for March, 2015. If your group would like to hold a public screening in your community, please contact Yasmin to make

the arrangements. She has lots of support material, and will work with you to have a staff member from the SLF attend.

Africa Trip 2015

A trip to Uganda to participate in an African Grandmothers Gathering is still on the table. The SLF is waiting to hear more from the organizations involved in the planning before more details about the opportunity are shared. Funding for the Gathering itself is in place, however much work has to be done to secure funds for the implementation of recommendations that will come from the event.



NEWS FROM OUR PRAIRIE REGION

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

Scrabble for Africa: There was much excitement in the room as we hosting our 7th annual Scrabble event. Among the 116 players in attendance were a few who have attended every Scrabble event since we started! We were also very happy to have two media teams join us for the afternoon – it was the team from Global TV that won our media challenge with the highest score!



Social Media Seminar: On December 5th, sixty people attended our “Social Media: Not As Scary As You Think!” seminar. The presentation gave us an overview of what Social Networking is and how it can benefit us through a focus on Facebook, the world's largest social network. The seminar session provided the basics for using Facebook enabling us to connect and share with the important people in our life through social networking safely and with confidence. The half-day seminar was facilitated by Jamie Olson of Olson Information Design, and guest presenter Taron Cochrane, Interactive Communications Manager with the City of Regina. The fee of \$10 included handouts and continental breakfast. Our thanks go to the New Horizons for Seniors grant that gave us this opportunity to support seniors in our community. <http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/seniors/funding/index.shtml>.

Giving Twice: Regina G4G sources merchandise from seven different income generating groups in Africa. All of these groups use the profits to improve the lives of those in the local community, and in most cases where the workers and staff are women. African merchandise, which is unique and varies widely in type, adds interest to our local displays and sales tables. Equally important, featuring the products of African groups gives a source of income for them, as well as providing solidarity. Shipping costs, currency exchange and GST all increase the cost of these imported items. Consequently, profit on this merchandise is less than on items made by our own G4G members. Despite limited profit on African-sourced merchandise, we feel it is important to feature it.



Jewellery items from **Project Have Hope** (www.projecthavehope.org) are reasonably priced and popular. They group produces a variety of styles of jewellery, most of them incorporating paper beads in the design. These beads are made from coloured recycled paper, which is cut in long triangles and rolled tightly to create beads of various sizes. They are then varnished and threaded together to create vibrant and attractive accessories. Project Have Hope provides education for children, as well as promoting business

opportunities for women through loans and training programs. To obtain merchandise produced by Project Have Hope, G4G Regina purchases wholesale-priced items through Karen Sparacio (karen.sparacio@gmail.com) in Maine. Unless she is in Uganda, delivery is almost always within two weeks. Karen is efficient, cooperative, and supportive of G4G and the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

For more information about Project Have Hope or to learn about the other six African groups from whom we've recently obtained merchandise, please contact the G4G Regina Merchandise Committee at g4gregina@sasktel.net. We would be happy to share information with you.

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

Recently Deb Radi, member of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg had an opportunity, organized through the SLF, to showcase the Tribunal Film with the Manitoba Nurses Union. Read what the MNU posted on their website about the work of the grandmothers and the film viewing opportunity. At the showing, it was also an opportunity to promote the local grandmothers group as well. <http://manitobanurses.ca/node/801>

Grannies Go2Gether

Some good news from our group in Treherne/Holland! We are back up and running, busy and happy. In November, we attended two different mini-malls with an information table and sold home-made candy. Would you believe we made over \$400 with the two events! And, in keeping with our desire to support something local when we fundraise for African grandmothers, we supported the local Minor Athletics and Lioness clubs by renting the tables.

We have set up two coffee parties in December where we serve coffee and taste tester goodies to two of our senior housing facilities. We make available baking to buy in whatever quantity they wish. It is a time of fellowship which we all seem to enjoy.

As we go along, we have had others want to help us with any fundraising we do. We were astounded at how generous the public is when they find out what we are about. It is truly heartwarming in our small communities. Blessings to all at this Christmas time ~ from the Grannies Go2Gether group.



Nipawin and District Grandmothers

The Nipawin group held its 8th annual Carol Festival on Monday, December 1, 2014 to mark World AIDS Day. Close to 100 people attended, and raised approximately \$1800.00 through a free-will offering. Cookies and wassail were provided.

NEWS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY



Winter has us in its grip here on the prairies, which means it's time to think ahead to spring! Has your group considered having a plant sale? Perhaps a plant sale and market? The grandmothers group in Kanata, Ontario has been doing this for years. Click here to read about their 8th annual event that raised over \$7,100 for the Grandmothers Campaign: <http://www.grassrootgrannies.com/events.html>.

GRATITUDE and HOLIDAY WISHES From Your REGIONAL REPS

We would like to thank you for all of your support in making our Prairie Region Update such a success! Without your ongoing contributions sharing what you are doing in your local grandmothers groups, our news would not be as rich as it is.

At this time of holiday celebrations, we would also like to wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season with all of the richness and joy that family and friends bring to our lives. Maybe we can also pause and take a moment to express our gratitude and appreciation for the grandmothers and the children in their care who, due to their strength of character and fortitude despite harsh conditions, contribute so much to our lives as well.



Please let us know of any events your group is holding, or has held recently, and we'll post it here.

Disclaimer: we try to get the information accurate – but please be sure to check with the local group before you venture out to an event in case there are any errors or changes.

If you would like more information on any of this material, please do let us know. We are here to support you and your groups with information sharing and connections, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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