



PRAIRIE REGION NEWSLETTER

January 2014

Happy New Year, and welcome to the Region Update:

- 1. New co-liaison for the Prairie Region.** We are so pleased to have Deb Radi from Grands 'n' More, Winnipeg take on the role of co-liaison for the Prairie Region. With the geographical challenges of our two provinces, the Foundation agreed that having co-liaisons, one representing Saskatchewan and one representing Manitoba, made good sense. There is little extra financial cost to the organization as this is a volunteer role. The other Regions already have, or are on the verge of getting, their own co-liaisons.
- 2. Africa Trip.** There will be 21 grandmothers going in March, along with a few SLF staff, to visit Ethiopia (3 projects), Botswana (2 projects), Durban, South Africa-area (2 projects.) Today's discussion was primarily around gathering Aeroplan points and cash contributions for the trip. The travellers, including Deb Radi (Winnipeg), Nina Logan (Winnipeg), and Sheila Fahlman (Regina), will be flying on Aeroplan points provided by the SLF, and will be responsible for most of the other expenses. We will be able to provide more information on how you can contribute support for the trip following a conference call next week.
- 3. Stride to Turn the Tide.** This initiative will continue, under the direct auspices of the SLF. The chosen dates for 2014 are June 7, 14, and 21 – groups can decide on their own which of those weekends they want to hold their events (walk and non-walk.) Insurance coverage will be provided by the SLF insurer, rather than by a separate company. Details are additionally being worked out to include not only the walk portion of events but also other aspects such as: BBQ's, picnics, etc. Once the coverage details have been worked out they will be posted on the SLF website under the STT walk link.
- 4. Tribunal.** Now you can read the Tribunal Report on line at www.africangrandmotherstribunal.org/report. This will give you the opportunity to look at the issues the grandmothers discussed in their testimonies.
- 5. Prairie Region Gathering.** Be sure to "**mark your calendar**" and plan to attend the Prairie Region Gathering. It will be held in Saskatoon on Friday, September 26 (evening), and Saturday, September 27th until 4:00 p.m. More information will come out later.

6. **Call for Crafters.** Any members in your groups who participate in Grandmother craft endeavours, and who are Costco members, may wish to send something in about how their crafts raise money for the Grandmothers Campaign: *Hey, crafter members! We want to hear your story. FROM QUILTS TO CARVINGS – and funky jewelry to unique works of art, the last several years have seen an increased interest in handcrafted items. Are you a Costco member who spends your summers or weekends selling at local markets or seasonal bazaars? Maybe you’ve turned to Esty or local shops to sell your wares. If so, we want to hear from you. Please tell us about your business – or hobby – in an email with “Crafty members” in the subject line and send it to sponder@costco.com. <http://www.costcoconnection.ca/connectioncaeng/20140102#pg9>.*

7. **Liaison Meeting.** Each year, the Grandmother Regional Liaisons (GRL) meet at the Stephen Lewis Foundation office in Toronto. There are workshops and presentations, discussions and planning, and of course, some ‘fun’ is built in as well. Although the agenda hasn’t been finalized quite yet, we expect to be talking about the following topics:

- Speaker’s Bureau – we’ll hear from the people who’ve been updating this material
- Ilana on all things project and SLF-related
- Programmes team on specific projects
- Discussion on “recruiting” new Regional Liaisons, as well as brainstorming on how to encourage and support new groups
- Best workshops/best practices from the regional gatherings held across the country
- Communications tools: using technology, the website, and more.
- Importing African-made goods/crafts for sale here
- Finance session
- A “Sustain the Campaign” workshop, and looking ahead to 10 years of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign (2016)
- FAQs workshop

If your group has a particular topic or issue for which you’d like information, please let us know.

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