



Photo credit: Alexis MacDonald

December 2015

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.

What a wonderful year the Prairie Region grandmothers groups have had, stellar in so many ways: funds raised for the SLF, the solidification of community support, a deepening of solidarity with African grandmothers, increased awareness of what Turning the Tide means in practical terms. This holiday season provides us all with an opportunity to relax and re-energize, refreshed as we embark on what is destined to be a very exciting year, particularly in the autumn of 2016 and the Prairie Region Gathering, hosted by Grands 'n' More Winnipeg, with Stephen Lewis as the keynote speaker along with African grandmothers and the SLF staff team.

Thank you for diligently sharing with one another all the exciting things we are doing which are so integral to the Grandmothers Campaign. We send you heartfelt wishes for seasonal gatherings that bring a smile to your face, and hope 2016 brings you peace, health and happiness.

Best wishes,

*Gail and Deb
Prairie Region Co-liaisons, Saskatchewan & Manitoba*



NEWS FROM OUR PRAIRIE REGION and the SLF

GRL Monthly Teleconference News

Merchandise Discussion around the import of products for merchandising purposes was discussed, and a decision was made to share with one another resource information, including contacts, for items that are popular and income-generating. If your group has a standing merchandise committee or sells merchandise as a fund-raiser, *please contact Deb and Gail* and provide us with lucrative product and sales information.

Social Media Campaign #loveyourgogo is a social media campaign initiated by Granddaughters to Grandmothers in Vancouver. People of all ages, with particular focus on the youth demographic, will pay tribute to their grandmothers. Running throughout the winter, more details on this fund-raiser will follow in the New Year.

Ask Her Talks in Winnipeg

The **Ask Her Talks** is a speaker series that gives the podium to five knowledgeable, dynamic and informed African women who speak about what happens when crises strike, and the role that philanthropy can play in a transformative response.

We invite you to experience a taste of Winnipeg's recent Ask Her Talks by clicking on the following links:

- [Winnipeg Free Press](#)
- [Global News](#)
- [CBC Radio's Winnipeg AM](#)
- [The Museum of Human Rights Blog](#)
- [CJOB's Richard Cloutier Reports](#)



South African Grandmothers Gathering

The SLF is again working alongside our community-based partners to convene the South African Grandmothers Gathering in July 2016. We will be selecting a delegation of Grandmothers Campaign members to attend as observers. The trip is open to grandmothers and grandothers in Canada, the UK, and Australia who belong to a registered grandmothers group and who are active members of the Grandmothers Campaign.



You are bound to have many questions – you'll find the answers in the trip Information Package, available now on line. Also, you can find the Application and Participant Commitment documents at www.grandmotherscampaign.org/members. The password to access the members-only section of the website is "ubuntu".

If you would like additional information about the July 2016 trip to Africa, there will be a Trip Information Conference call on Wednesday, December 16 at 12:30 pm EST. The number is 1-888-884-4538, prompt 3443606#.

We are hoping that grandmothers and grandothers are interested in applying for this opportunity with the SLF. Wouldn't it be wonderful if members from our Region were able to participate and share their adventures at our Fall Regional Gathering?

Nipawin & District G4G

The Nipawin and District G4G raised over \$2000 at our ninth annual Carol Festival. Local talent performed a variety of tunes, and seasonal refreshments rounded out an event that continues to be enjoyed and supported by the community.



G4G Moose Jaw



G4G Moose Jaw is happy to report our best to date fund raiser result! Between May and October 2015, we sold raffle tickets on a quilt and locally donated prizes, and raised \$2,265 which will be sent to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Our group was also very busy at the St. Andrew's Trade Show on November 7 selling snacks, baked goods, crafts, and our Strawberry Tea in the afternoon. G4G made \$1,000 at the trade show. All in all a great fund raising year! Thank you Moose Jaw and area for supporting our charity!

G4G Moose Jaw is fortunate to have support from the local paper, the Moose Jaw Express. They cover our events and write articles about our activities. To read the latest piece they have published on Nola Ayers educational trip to Uganda, click here: http://moosejawexpress.com/assets/mje_dec-2-low.pdf. Scroll down to page 13.

G4G Prince Albert

The G4G members from Prince Albert had a wonderful November! Hosting a dance to a sold out crowd of 250, everyone raved about how much fun was had while we tripped the light fantastic. A local band donated its time and exceptional musical talent, and left members and guests crossing their fingers that it will repeat this generous gesture. A Silent Auction, along with the sale of "angels" and small cross-body purses, contributed to the total raised, a jaw-dropping \$7500. Completing the picture was our November 28th Annual Bake Sale, a consistently profitable event that netted \$1400, and a quilt raffle that raised close to \$1500. It is fairly safe to say we are very pleased with the \$12,000 cheque we will be posting to the SLF. And now? Well, it is time for some well-earned fellowship over a pot-luck social.



We wish all G4G members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Grandmothers Giving, Portage la Prairie

Grandmothers Giving completed its year with a meeting on World AIDS Day, December 1st with a dessert gathering for members and friends. At that time, Tina Lequier gave a PowerPoint presentation about the current work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and a recap of our fundraising efforts for the year. As well, she and Linda Muirhead shared highlights from the *Ask Her Talks* in Winnipeg on November 25th which they indicated was "excellent and inspiring".

Members felt good about their efforts this year, as we fundraised over \$8,000 for the Foundation. We especially appreciated the new ideas members suggested – one being that we work cooperatively with the ladies from Fairholme Colony who baked bread, buns, cinnamon buns and apple pies for us which were sold at several Bake Sales with great success! The community response was incredible and everything sold out each time. In addition, the Colony donated plants in the spring which also helped raise funds for the Foundation. A big *thank you* goes to them for their support and interest in our fundraising endeavors. A project we hope to continue again next year.

Our 9th Grandmothers Giving Fall Dinner was a great success again and we were almost sold out (240+) as had the best attendance ever. (We have 250 tickets available.) We held our African Marketplace again – a local artist Connie Gretzinger sold her African styled Art Cards and she donated the proceeds to the Foundation and joined us for Dinner. We sold Colony buns and frozen apple pies which sold out! A special *thank you* goes out to Winnipeg's Grands'n More for their table of beautiful totes and bags. We enjoy having your members join us and support our dinner as well. Pictured here are members as they prepare the vegetables for the Dinner at the Herman Prior Centre in Portage la Prairie.



Now our group takes a break over the winter until next spring when we will meet in April to begin our 10th year for our group. *Grandmother Giving* members send best wishes to you all for the holidays and New Year!

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

After a very busy fall with Art From the Attic (revenue of approximately \$27,000), the Fabric, Yarn and More Sale (approximately \$8,500), and a merchandise/information booth at Wintergreen Fine Craft Market, and many presentations at which we displayed and sold merchandise (merchandise sales at various events netted \$2,169, and donations and honoraria from speaking engagements a further \$1,660), not to mention regular monthly meetings, Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina is taking a break in December.

FUNdraising

Members are getting together to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the festive season on December 8th and then a rest before we start into the activities and fundraisers planned for 2016. We are so pleased that Sheila Fahlman was the guest speaker at Women's History Month. This was one more opportunity for Sheila to fulfill her obligation to the SLF as a result of her trip to Africa and to spread the word about our work. Nola Ayers, who represented us in Uganda with the SLF, talked about her experience at our November meeting and inspired us to keep on working. We look forward to hearing more from Nola in the new year. From G4G to all our companion groups, we wish everyone all the best of the season and a happy holiday.

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

Day of Caring Idea: The Day/Week of Caring is an attempt to counterbalance the over-the-top consumerism prevalent at this time of year. At Grands 'n' More, we did two things:

One – we offered our Warm-Up to Winnipeg scarves as a 2:1 special, and were VERY successful in getting these warm, hand-knit items onto the necks of newly-arrived refugees – and still have a significant amount of money to send to the G2G projects.



Secondly – members were given a New Year's Resolution slip: *"MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: One thing I will do for Grands 'n' More in the coming month(s): (i.e. hold a bag party, find a potluck location, contribute my casino or sports pool winnings, bring a friend, distribute info to family/ friends/ colleagues, send a letter to the editor, etc.)"* We will read them out at our February member meeting as a way to share the ideas (no names attached!)

IDEAS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

Each month we share a fundraising idea from another Grandmothers group. Some of the events were held a year or two ago, some are more current. But all are shown to give your large or small group on the Prairies some ideas in case you're looking for something new to take on.

Sock Hop

Hands and Hearts for Africa, in Richmond Ontario, hosted a 50s and 60s Sock Hop featuring Little Peter and the Elegants! This February 2015 event began at 5 pm with a large silent auction and a dinner combo of piano, keyboard, and guitar. Pasta options of meat or vegetarian (and gluten free dishes) were served from 6 pm-7 pm. Little Peter and the Elegants played from 7 – 9 pm.



*Please let us know of any events your group is holding, or has held recently, and we'll post it here. **The deadline for all news is the first day of each month.** 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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