



# 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 2016

## NEWS FROM THE SLF AND OUR PRAIRIE REGION

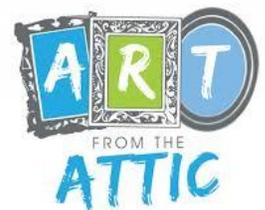
### FLASH MOB! The Compilation Video

Many of you will have received a special issue of the Granny Bulletin in your in-box on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Check out the piece on the Flash Mob, and view the video here:

[http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/flashmobs?utm\\_source=Granny+Bulletin&utm\\_campaign=6a8ebc25ef-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2016\\_12\\_08&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f76627515a-6a8ebc25ef-37307705](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/flashmobs?utm_source=Granny+Bulletin&utm_campaign=6a8ebc25ef-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2016_12_08&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76627515a-6a8ebc25ef-37307705).

### Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

**Art from the Attic:** These days, we now think of AFTA (Art from the Attic) as a fundraiser that commences in September with a 1-day sale, and concludes the following May after participating in a fall and spring on-line auction hosted by the Saskatchewan Network for Art Collectors. We are fortunate to have the support of its administrator, who waives his consignment fee and donates 100% of the proceeds of all art sold under the banner of G4G Regina. November's auction included a number of pieces that were donated by members of the community for AFTA. We are pleased that 15 works of art sold netted \$5,200, which brings money raised by AFTA 2016 to \$26,200. Stay tuned for an update after spring's auction!



**Flash Mob:** On December 1<sup>st</sup>, World AIDS Day, we joined grandmothers groups across Canada in an awareness-raising Flash Mob. Choreography by the SLF was shared with groups from coast to coast, and as 21 members dressed in colourful, green t-shirts danced to the Eurhythmics' Sisters Are Doin' it for Themselves, University of Regina

students, faculty and staff watched on with surprise that morphed into clapping and applause. With the assistance of the students' union, a recording of the event was sent to the SLF, to be included in a composite of all groups' flash mobs. Media coverage was present, and cell phones a'plenty held high in the air ensured recordings were shared across town. We were very fortunate to have two rehearsals with the talented and creative Kaitlyn Semple, actor/singer/dancer/teacher, and granddaughter of one of our members. Members Susan Holmes and Bev Zizzy inspired us to be energetic and have fun as they led us through the moves. Way to go, Regina!

**In the Community:** In December, we participated in a Women's History Month event that was held in conjunction with the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. We set up our display of pictures and information to raise awareness of the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign, the focus of our fundraising initiatives, and we had some lovely merchandise for sale.

**Events in 2017:** We are busy working on fundraisers for the coming new year. A committee has been struck to oversee our second Fabric & Yarn Sale in March, and another group of members is busy planning for our spring signature fundraiser on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Queensbury Convention Centre. This year we are shaking things up by building the evening around entertainment by *Rosie and the Riveters*. Tickets will be available on-line, so mark your calendars and watch for more details.



We do not hold a general meeting in December however in its place, we get together to enjoy each other's company over festive food and drink.

We wish everyone a happy, fun and restful holiday season.

## Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

**A Community Partnership:** The North Kildonan Community Players of Winnipeg offered Grands 'n' More Winnipeg a unique opportunity to attend their performance of the musical *Oliver* and raise money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation at the same time. Not only did members enjoy the lively show, but \$110.00 was donated to SLF. Now that's community partnership in action!

**Wellness Fair:** "The Art of Aging Gracefully" Wellness Fair at the Rady JCC on November 28/16 was a well organized and well attended event that three of our members attended. We spoke to many many people. Most had heard of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg but some were new to our message. We really believe that we made a positive contribution to the event and were able to raise awareness about the ongoing need to support the SLF.



**Flash Dance:** On December 1, 2016, at noon in Portage Place Mall by the fountain, about 40 or possibly even more Grands 'n' More Winnipeg members alongside daughters and grandchildren celebrated World AIDS Day by Flash Dancing to the song "Sisters are Doin' it for Themselves". Written by Annie Lennox and performed by the Eurythmics and Aretha Franklin, we all found our beat and grooved to the motions of 'Ring Your Bell, Superhero, and March On' - alongside other choreographed movements. Bystanders grinned, captured the dance on their smart phones, and some even sang along with the chorus. As an encore, we enjoined the public to dance with us for a second rendition. And it happened! Some did, joined by their small children.

Thanks to a member's husband, an excellent video tape was captured and sent off to the SLF. Segments of this video will be compiled alongside footage from other Flash Mobs across Canada (approximately 60 grandmothers groups participated) and made available for all grandmother groups across Canada to enjoy. Watch for this shortly!

There is nothing to stop us from doing it again next year! That is the intention of some Grandmothers Groups. If Grands 'n' More Winnipeg wish to do so, with sufficient notice and planning perhaps we could invite other groups - Grannies Gone Global, IWR, UNESCO students and teachers, etc. to join us. Setting us loose on the public, there is no telling what we might do.

**December Member Meeting:** As Grands 'n' More wound up another successful year of solidarity, fundraising, awareness events and support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the December member meeting was a real



treat. Imagine this: The room is dark with flickering candle light on the tables, chairs snuggled close with the focus on an old fashioned radio. As members enter, soft music plays. Bev Suek welcomes members and asks them to recall a time when evenings were spent listening to radio programs. Fond memories poured out and that set the tone. And who better to spend time listening to other than a radio interview of Stephen Lewis. He recounted his rage and grief at the AIDS epidemic, its effect on women and children but also the need for the world to address the misogyny that creates circumstance that allows for the continued power imbalance. He spoke so eloquently in regards to the Grandmothers in Africa that have stepped up to raise a generation of orphans at a time in their life when they are the ones that should be nurtured and cared for by their children, the missing generation. He also paid tribute to Canadian Grandmothers for solidarity with the African Grandmothers and their continued efforts in fundraising and raising awareness about the continuing situation in Africa. Each group discussed the interview and spoke about what they heard and understood from the interview and also the continuing role of GnM. After a lovely tea break and delivery of Vera's amazing shortbread, we continued the

discussion. The general consensus: "We will not rest until they can rest." Following a brief business portion, our meeting ended with another rendition of the Flash Mob.

## Grandmothers and Others, Swift Current

Our group held a very successful fall raffle. Three lucky winners from Swift Current and area received cash prizes of \$1000, \$800 and \$500. What a grand Christmas present for these ladies!! Our group will forward approximately \$5000 to the Stephen Lewis Grandmothers Campaign. We are grateful to Pharmasave and the Pioneer Co-Op for providing ticket-selling venues. Our members sold tickets Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays beginning September 1, concluding November 26, doing two and one half hour shifts. It was also an opportunity to raise awareness about the work of the Grandmothers Campaign. Our group was very gratified with the outcome of this new (for us) project.



Editor's addition to this story: <http://www.prairiepost.com/news/swift-current/item/3304-grandmothers-decking-the-halls-for-other-grandmothers.html>

## G4G Moose Jaw

Moose Jaw G4G did a lot more events in 2016 than in previous years and raised over \$3,000 in total! Our Strawberry Tea on November 5<sup>th</sup> was attended by more than 75 people – we sold out of food which meant no leftovers. To mark World AIDS Day, our group had a table at the Moose Jaw CO-OP on December 1<sup>st</sup> where we sold crafts, books and African-made necklaces, and handed out information on the Stephen

Lewis Foundation. Thank you to the members who worked at the table where we raised \$200.00.



Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, when we will be planning a spring event/fundraiser. As well, we are looking forward to selling necklaces and wallets from Uganda in the spring. The Moose Jaw group can be contacted at 306-693-3848.

## Grandmothers Giving, Portage la Prairie

Another year is coming to a close and we want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. It has been a productive and exciting 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for our group, **Grandmothers Giving**. We are blessed with some new members and new ideas for raising money for the Foundation. Our projects have been successful and we raised more money this year at our Fall Dinner than ever before. Are we doing another one ladies?

Some of our group attended the Prairie Regional Gathering in Winnipeg in September and came away inspired! Thanks to the organizers for a great weekend. It was most enjoyable and those who attended were so pleased to hear from Stephen Lewis.

They also came away wanting to participate in the Flash Mob to create more awareness about HIV/AIDS for World AIDS Day. Below is a picture of our Flash Mob event at our Portage la Prairie PCU Centre. We also had several high school students join in.

Following this event we had a lunch together to bring to a close our season until next spring. Thank you to all our members for their volunteer time and skills which help us raise money for the important work of the **Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign**.





*"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire"...probably not. "Sleigh bells ring are you listening"...maybe so. Whatever it is you and your family are able to do and enjoy over this Holiday Season, may it be one of support, togetherness and gratitude. From the Prairie Region, blessings to all and a truly Happy New Year. In solidarity with our African grandmothers and those in their care, the best of the season.*

*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.

Gail Greenberg  
Co-liaison, Prairie Region  
Regina, SK  
306-761-2304

[support@imgcommunicationspecialist.com](mailto:support@imgcommunicationspecialist.com)

Cathie Hiller  
Co-liaison, Prairie Region  
Winnipeg, MB  
204-487-4100

[cathie\\_hiller@yahoo.ca](mailto:cathie_hiller@yahoo.ca)