



Photo credit: Alexis MacDonald

February 2017

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.

NEWS FROM THE SLF

It's Back! Aeroplan Mile Matching Week – February 27 to March 5, 2017

Each year, Aeroplan gives the Stephen Lewis Foundation a week where every mile donated will be matched by Aeroplan. This year, February 27th to March 5th is the Foundation's Aeroplan Mile Matching Week. Aeroplan miles donated to the Foundation during this week will go twice as far!

Aeroplan Miles are essential to our work; and we simply would not be able to do our work without them. Aeroplan miles make it possible to bring African grandmothers and other African experts to Canada, enable field representatives to visit the community-based projects, and allow community-based workers to travel and build unified networks across Africa.



Mark your calendars and check the SLF website for how to make your contribution. stephenlewisfoundation.org

News from the February Grandmothers Regional Liaison Teleconference

The minutes from the February 6th Grandmothers Regional Liaison (GRL) teleconference commenced with the following statement, "Most of this information will be shared in the next **Granny Bulletin** (GB), coming out next week". Thus, by the time you take delivery of the February *Prairie Region Update*, all of you will have received the GB, a newsletter chock full of information that arrives in your in-box courtesy of the SLF team. It will contain information on a number of items that have crossed GRLs' desks, including an update on the continuation of the regional gatherings that commenced last year, the topic of Regional Liability Insurance as it pertains to group's activities, STRIDE, Aeroplan Mile Matching Week, and ***Ilana's Annual Letter*** to members, which we encourage groups to read at their next available meeting



or, in the absence of a meeting, in your jammies at home while sipping a cuppa. If you are a selective reader, as are most of us, we urge you to always take a few minutes to read the **Granny Bulletin**. Besides being informative (and so much more), it facilitates a sense of camaraderie that comes from working together on shared interests and passions.

The GRLs are gathering with the SLF staff in Toronto in early April for a 3-day meeting (stay tuned for more on this topic in next month's Update) so if there are any issues or subjects you would like addressed, please share this information with Gail (Regina) or Cathie (Winnipeg).

In closing, here's a wee taste of what was on Ilana's mind when she put pen to paper as she reached out to the hundreds and hundreds of members of grandmothers groups across Canada and Australia:

I know if the grandmothers of Africa could write to you - speak to you - they would want to thank you as only they can - with their dignity and leadership and courage and strength, they would convey the love and sense of solidarity they have for and WITH you...

and perhaps I will give the last word to Sipiwe of SWAPOL in Swaziland; someone you all know well! :

"Ten years is not a joke. Ten years of support means lives can actually be rebuilt, systems can actually be changed... This is not a quick fix but that is not to say we have been moving slowly! It took 10 years for the grandmothers to recover, reclaim their voice, reach this point where they can claim their rights, pressure their governments. Maybe I should say 'only 10 years'. So now is the next chapter of HIV+ AIDS in Africa. Grandmothers of Africa will be writing it.

But this is the beginning again.

We can't stop here.

We won't stop here.

We hope you will stay with us!"



Sipiwe Hlophe, SWAPOL

NEWS FROM OUR PRAIRIE REGION

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

Doing it for the 'first' time...in a very long time!

Fifty seven people gathered at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church on February 7th, 2017 for a Pot Luck Luncheon. Literally weathering a very cold day, comfort and warmth was found in good company, good food and an extraordinary pictorial presentation by Bev Suek who told of her SLF African trip last summer. Grands 'n' More members mingled with the Vital Seniors and members from the Anglican church allowing those who would otherwise find it difficult to attend a Pot Luck supper to participate and enjoy a joyous and educational opportunity. To be continued, no doubt!

Taking our Social Justice Message to the Next Generation

I have a question: When someone asks you why 'you' belong to Grands 'n' More (or the name of your grandmothers group), what do you say? Or, maybe the question is simply - what do 'they' do? Every time each of us is asked a question regarding Grands 'n' More, we are in fact spreading the message. We, in our individual ways, are supporting the African grandmothers and the orphaned children in their care. Each time, we are speaking out about gender inequality, social justice and equity for all. It is finding a way to encapsulate our intentions and our actions into a few words.

Continuing our relationship with the University of Winnipeg, and in particular the Global College, Grands 'n' More Winnipeg once again attended the Menno Simons Social Justice Fair. Carly Kosa, Student Services Assistant, writes: "Menno Simons College's 11th annual Social Justice Fair happened on February 8th, 2017. It was a fantastic nonprofit networking event held in the cafeteria at the University of Winnipeg. It was a great opportunity for students to see what local organizations are doing, learn about volunteer opportunities, and get career ideas. There were 43 organizations in attendance...many meaningful conversations were had and students learned a lot about future possibilities in the world of social justice".



Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

Fabric and Yarn Sale

Calling all sewers! Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina is holding its second annual Fabric Sale on Saturday, March 25th. The Fabric Team is ready to begin receiving, measuring, and pricing fabric in preparation for the sale. This year, fabric will be received and prepared at St. James United Church and the sale will take place at All Saints Anglican Church. It's a busy time as Saturdays are set

aside for the next several weeks to prepare for this fundraiser. This will be a wonderful opportunity for sewers, quilters, crafters and fashion designers to stock up on material.

Swing into Spring with Rosie & the Riveters

Saturday, May 13th is our signature fundraising evening and the planning committee is busy working on tickets, food, decorations, and all the details that make this evening a great success. We are excited to announce that the entertainment for the evening will be 'Rosie & the Riveters'. And new this year – tickets will be available on-line!!! Tickets for the evening are \$75.00 and we promise a great event.



Sponsorship for our Spring Fundraiser



G4G Regina's Sponsorship Goal for its **Swing into Spring** May 13th fundraiser!

And the beat goes on!

With all the planning and work for fundraisers we continue to deal with the business of the organization. It is time again to look for members who would like to be on the Executive. To be ready to make our appointments in June, we are asking members now to nominate women they think are ready and willing to serve in this capacity. We do not anticipate an election for any of the positions but we are confident we will have all positions filled and ready to start in the fall.

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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