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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.

June 2015

NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

Canadian Grandmothers Trip to Observe National Grandmothers Convening in Uganda

The SLF will be selecting a delegation of about 30 Grandmothers Campaign members – from Canada, the UK and Australia – to attend the Ugandan Convening as delegates and observers. For more details, please read the Granny Bulletin that came out on June 4th.



The Ask Her Talks

This new Stephen Lewis Foundation initiative took place over three days recently in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. The Talks gave the podium to knowledgeable, dynamic and informed African women, who spoke about what happens when crises strike – such as the AIDS pandemic, Ebola and sexual violence in conflict – and the role that philanthropy should now play in a transformative space.

Grandmothers: Africa's Unsung Heroes

A new book, co-written by three of our African community-based partners – ROTOM in Uganda, PENAF in Kenya and GAPA in South Africa – is now available. Using storytelling, photography and dozens of letters passed between African grandmothers who live thousands of kilometres apart, *Grandmothers: Africa's Unsung Heroes* helps to document the diverse experiences and lives of older women raising orphaned grandchildren. Each copy is \$12, plus mailing costs. If your grandmothers group would like to order multiple copies they are also available “on consignment”. The SLF will send you the books and you can send back the funds for books sold. You can also return unsold copies – although we don't think that will be necessary! This is the same process that was used successfully with the Africa trip calendars last fall. For more information or to order your copy now, please get in touch with Tammy Ebuon at tebuen@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

Planning Ahead for World AIDS Day

The SLF is looking in to the possibility of hosting of an evening event sometime in between November 23rd and World AIDS Day on December 1st. Do you know of any current plans within your grandmothers group or do you happen to know of any non-grandmother related events that could conflict with these dates? Please let Deb know at dradi@mymts.net, or Sheila at sfahlman@sasktel.net.

Fun Facts about the Grandmothers Campaign

Fact #3

How many grandmothers group members are there?

The number of individuals who are identified as grandmothers group members in our database is over 6,500. This information comes to us in many forms, the most of which is through group membership lists. Since we don't receive membership lists from all groups, and we know not all groups keep membership lists, we suspect there are many more members that we don't even know about!

Fact #4

How many "likes" does the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign have on Facebook?

At the time we completed this newsletter, there are 2,344 likes.

NEWS FROM OUR PRAIRIE REGION

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

Although June usually signals a slowing-down of activities, we are not finding that to be the case! Our Stride event looms – as it does for the other groups who are participating. Our Stride has gone indoors (we got tired of getting wet!), and will be held for the second time at an indoor mall. Displays include information about health care, education, water, AIDS information, and our recent “yarn bombing” of a (fabricated) tree at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. Activities range from making plastic bag and fabric strip balls, to trying to carry “water” containers, to quizzes about the SLF countries. Two local authors will read from their books depicting African stories. This year we are using a “passport” to support participants to travel from one activity to another. Of course, our totes and other items will be on sale – after all, people come to the mall to shop, and this offers them some alternative purchases.



This month also will see a Potluck at a downtown seniors' residence; our speaker is a Winnipeg Free Press reporter who will talk about her travel to the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya.

Of course, work is charging ahead on our inaugural “Art from the Attic” event, with many folks collecting the donated artworks, cleaning/framing, pricing. As the September 20 sale date approaches, even more of our members (and partners and offspring and others) will help get to art to the sale site.

On the down side, our recent Annual Gathering resulted in NOT filling all of our coordinating committee spots. We are not sure how this will play out, we are hopeful that members will step up once they miss what has been done in the past such as our monthly newsletter. Likely we cannot sustain our level of activity without new leaders in various roles.

Grandmothers & Others for Change in Swift Current, SK.



Not much to report except that our "revitalized" Grandmothers and Others in Swift Current are meeting June 8 to do some thinking about our fall program. Usually we do a couple of fundraiser/awareness projects per year so we will see what the group chooses. Then we will recess for the summer.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Moose Jaw

G4G Moose Jaw is selling raffle tickets as a fundraiser. The draw will be in November 7, 2015 at a joint event with St. Andrew's Church. The event is a tradeshow, and G4G will have baking and small crafts for sale. Tickets are 1/\$2.00 or 3/\$5.00 and we made only 1000 tickets. All prizes were donated. The raffle prizes are:

- a beautiful hand-stitched quilt
- a GM gift pack and a restaurant gift certificate
- coupons for massages at a local spa, and restaurant gift cards.



On June 4th, G4G Moose Jaw and the Moose Jaw Public Library co-hosted an information afternoon. Sheila Fahlman of G4G Regina was our guest speaker, and shared stories of her 2014 trip to visit the community-based organizations that receive funding from the SLF. We were pleased our local newspaper covered the story: <http://www.mjtimes.sk.ca/News/Local/2015-06-04/article-4170577/Grandmothers-see-fruits-of-their-work-with-presentation/1>.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Prince Albert



The Prince Albert G4G spent a lovely evening on May 27th with our satellite G4G group and their friends at Candle Lake. We were treated to a wonderful meal, good fellowship and an interesting presentation by Sheila Fahlman. June will be very busy for both of our groups. Candle Lake is having a "Salad Fiesta" on June 6th and a "Granny Boutique" following their annual parade July 1st. Both of these will be an opportunity to sell our handmade items. P.A. will be selling a variety of items (cookies of course) at the annual street fair on Father's Day. We wish all Grannies and friends a safe and happy summer.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

The Regina Cathedral Village Arts Festival street fair on Saturday, May 23rd was as big as usual (over 380 vendors), and busier than usual because of the beautiful weather. We had lots of opportunity to spread the word about the Grandmothers Campaign and about our local organization, as well to sell over \$1100.00 worth of our merchandise.

June 1st saw the official kickoff for our 3rd annual Art from the Attic, to be held on September 26th. However, art has been coming in steadily since our event last fall. We recently sold two of our donated pieces through the Saskatchewan Network for Art Collecting on-line auction for a total profit of \$1230.00. Many thanks to Robin Schlaht, who runs the network, for donating his time and effort in selling these items for us.



Grandmothers Giving, Portage la Prairie

Grandmothers Giving began its ninth season this spring and outlined its planned activities for the upcoming year at our last meeting. These include some new ideas, and we will see how things work out. At this time we are continuing with the following activities:

- **Granny Jar Campaign:** During the month of May, 29 churches and local businesses agreed to have a Granny Jar in which cash donations are accepted and the money raised goes to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We have done this for many years. An African fabric-topped Jar – called a Granny Jar - is placed in various locations in our community. This Campaign serves as a reminder of the importance of mothers, and is done in remembrance of Mother's Day around the world. As each year passes we find fewer and fewer people are carrying cash, so we wonder how long we may continue with this project. However, it has been successful each year, so we will see what this year brings.
- **Stride to Turn the Tide Walk 2015:** This year's Walk will be on Sunday, June 14th in Island Park, Portage la Prairie, starting at 1 p.m. with a BBQ lunch and followed by the Walk in the Park at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us! This is a good time for our members and their families to gather and have a social time while raising money and awareness about the work of the Foundation.
- **Grandmothers Giving Fall Dinner:** Plans are underway for another Fall Supper and African Marketplace. The date will be Sunday, September 13th at the Herman Prior Centre in Portage la Prairie. Details are yet to be finalized, but we hope groups from Winnipeg and possibly Treherne may take part.
- **Other Events:** Unexpected opportunities do come up! Two presented themselves at our last meeting - so we are currently planning a couple of events for this week. On June 5th, the group is catering a high school luncheon for a special group of students and their mentors at the school. We have worked with the school in the past and it has been a good experience. The profit is expected to be small from the lunch but will go to SLF. Building a relationship with students in our community is a worthwhile endeavour.



On June 6th we are working with Fairholme Colony (the Colony that makes those delicious dinner rolls for our Fall Supper) to have a **Plant and Bake Sale** at a member's home where there is a Community Garage Sale. Proceeds will go to the Foundation. We all have our orders in for those wonderful homemade bread and buns and we are certain the response will be great! Let's hope the weather cooperates.

Regional Survey

A huge thank you to the groups that responded to our first Regional Survey. To those Grandmothers groups that have not yet submitted their information, you still have time – we want to hear from you so your ideas can be taken into consideration when planning for the 2016 Gathering in Winnipeg. Just email Deb at dradi@mymts.net.

NEWS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

Are you a “small market” group? If so, this idea may be just perfect for you to try as a fundraiser:

GammaLink-Alberta in Red Deer, AB held an event, in June 2014, called “Mac & Cheese for a Cause”! There was grandma-made mac & cheese, buns, coleslaw and brownies for eat in or takeout. Tickets were \$15.00 at the door, and all proceeds went to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.



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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