



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.

March 2015

NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

Stride to Turn the Tide

Why Are We Walking?

African grandmothers walk with a purpose. They walk to far-away clinics and markets. They walk to collect water and to deliver their grandchildren safely to school. They walk to provide urgent home-based care and to protest violations of their human rights. African grandmothers are changing the course of the pandemic – they stride and the tide is turning in their communities.



This year, the main weekend for Stride to Turn the Tide is June 13-14, 2015. Walks may also be held June 6-7 or June 20-21, 2015. For more information, please contact stride@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

Stride is covered under the SLF's insurance provider on the first three weekends in June. In order to be covered under this insurance, grandmothers groups must send us the Walk Registration Form (one per Walk) at least one week prior to the event. If you're using a public park in your community, you need to list that on the form. For more information and to access the Walk Registration Form, go to www.grandmotherscampaign.org/stride.

Try a 'virtual' walk instead

The 'virtual' Stride is a great alternative to a traditional walk, even for groups who are taking on Stride for the first time. It's an idea inspired by two Grandmothers groups in Ontario. Here's how it works for them:

Grandmothers register, buy pedometers, get pledges, and walk over a designated period of time to reach their 'destination'. Many aspects of the virtual walk work the same as a traditional walk. You can still register team members, sign up for online fundraising pages, and collect pledges. The difference is that instead of planning one day for a walk, team members walk over several weeks and use pedometers to record their steps or distance. That means you can walk wherever you want and whenever you want. For example, why not challenge yourself or your group to 'walk' to one (or more!) of the community-based organizations the SLF partners with in Africa? For more information, please go to <http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Stride-2015-Virtual-Walk-Information2.pdf>

Aeroplan Miles Matching Day

Thank **YOU**, Grandmothers! With your help, we **EXCEEDED 2 million Aeroplan Miles. WOW!** This will make a significant difference in the work we are able to accomplish!!!



2016: Ten Years of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

Discussions and planning for the 10th anniversary are moving forward. We'll have more for you next month following the Grandmothers Regional Liaison's annual meeting in Toronto in early April. Watch this space and the Granny Bulletin for the latest news!

2015 Sisterhood of the Travelling Grands Calendars



Just to let you know that approximately **\$12,000** was raised through the sale of the calendars. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

NEWS FROM OUR PRAIRIE REGION

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Moose Jaw

G4G Moose Jaw is organizing a raffle. One prize is a quilt donated by a quilting group. We are lining up other donations for the draw that will take place on November 7, 2015, at our Tea, Bake and Craft sale at St. Andrew's United Church.



We have partnered with Moose Jaw Public Library to have an information afternoon on June 4th at 2:30 p.m., upstairs in the library. Sheila Fahlman from G4G Regina will speak about the Stephen Lewis Foundation and show a PowerPoint presentation of her trip to visit the community-based projects in Africa.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

Women, Wisdom, and Wine

At the February meeting of Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina we celebrated our achievements, recognized our strengths, talked about our challenges and came up with some new ideas for strengthening our organization. We took advantage of the excellent resources among our members, the wisdom that comes with age, and added a little wine to inspire and ignite our creative juices. We opened the strategic planning portion of the meeting with a slide show depicting the history of G4G and highlighting some interesting moments throughout our nine-year history. Armed with a little background information, each of the small groups worked at developing a mission statement that will be used to help guide decisions and set priorities. Among the camaraderie and the laughs, was some serious discussion out of which came some good ideas. As one of our members said, "the hospitality (food and drink) provided a lovely welcoming ambience, the meeting moved in an interesting manner, and people were able to contribute and



share ideas.” Door prizes added a little extra encouragement. Thank you to the G4G members who contributed wine, food and prizes. All in all it was a productive and fun evening.

Tribunal Film Screening

On Monday, March 9th, we marked International Women’s Day with a public screening of the film “African Grandmothers Tribunal: Seeking justice at the frontlines of the AIDS crisis”. The event was held at the University of Regina, and approximately seventy people were in attendance. Thank you to Yasmin for being such a super representative of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Jabula! A Fundraising Evening



In just a few weeks, G4G Regina’s signature fundraising event – Jabula! A Fundraising Evening – will be held on Friday, April 24th. This is the group’s 9th annual fundraising dinner, and features Ida Nambeya as guest speaker, entertainment by Inyamamare Dance Group of Rwanda, a silent auction, and raffle. The MC for the evening will be Ruth Smillie, Artistic Director and CEO of Globe Theatre. And of course, we’ll have the silent auction and raffle to round things out. If you’ll be in or near Regina that weekend, do consider getting a ticket and attending the evening. Just contact us at g4gregina@sasktel.net.

In the News

A production company contracted by SaskTel Max will be at the film screening and at our March member meeting. They will be conducting interviews and gathering footage of our members in action to create a documentary that will air sometime prior to our fundraising dinner.

Grands ‘n’ More Winnipeg

**SCRABBLE
FOR
AFRICA**

A Scrabble benefit in support of the
Grandmothers to Grandmothers
Campaign Stephen Lewis Foundation

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Sponsored by
Grands ‘N’ More Winnipeg

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Address: St. Andrews
Anglican Church 2700 Portage
Avenue, (at Woodhaven)

To register or for more information:
ninalogan@shaw.ca
204-832-5569

Grannies Gone Global and Grands 'n' More Winnipeg got together on March 5, 2015. This is our second "annual" event. Both groups meet the same night, but in different areas of Winnipeg. Thanks to Chris Penner (GGG) and Deb Radi (G'n'M Winnipeg) who planned a fun and informative evening accompanied by pizza and dessert.



Grannies Gone Global is a not-for-profit organization that hopes to provide emotional and physical support to grandmothers locally and globally who find themselves in the rewarding but challenging position of being caregivers of their grandchildren. They are local but support other grandmothers in northern Manitoba, and 4 groups of grandmothers in Uganda!

Grannies Go2Gether – Holland/Treherne, Manitoba

We are so excited to have raised over a \$1000.00, not too bad for our little group. We sent our first cheque to Stephen Lewis Foundation in the new year.



This past month we hosted another coffee party, this time in Holland at their Victoria Manor. It was a wonderful way to spend a blustery afternoon, sharing coffee and goodies with the residents there. Of course we had extra goodies to sell, and were they happy to buy!! The final result, some very delighted seniors, some great conversations, information shared about the grandmothers campaign and \$183.00 raised for the cause.

Coming up in April, we plan on having an information/donation table set up at a Ladies Night event organized by the Tiger Hills Arts Association. Many women, young and old, attend this event, making it a good night to increase awareness of the grandmothers group.

So, we enjoy ourselves as we do these community events, and we raise a little money on the side!

FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

Fenelon Grannies 6th Annual Musicathon Event



The Fenelon Falls (population 1,800) Grannies for Grannies invite you to this 8 hour marathon of music, both instruments and voice. The 2014 talent search is on for musicians: amateur or professional, children or adults, individuals or groups, vocal or instrumental. Pledges are in support of the local Fenelon chapter of Grandmothers to Grandmothers (part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation). Pick up pledge forms and instructions at The Big Event Florist Shop or The Village Shop. All performers come with pledged support and will receive free refreshments. Watch in the Kawartha Lakes newspaper for the finalized performer schedule. Free admission. For more information, please contact 705-887-2675 or email granniesforgranniesmusicathon@gmail.com.

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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