



Photo credit: Alexis MacDonald

March 2016

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 AND OUR PRAIRIE REGION

Prairie Region Gathering ~ September 24 & 25, 2016 in Winnipeg, Manitoba



Our Prairie Region Gathering planning is underway. We are currently working on the program and logistics details. The goal is to have the program out to Prairie groups by early April to support your planning to join us for what promises to be an incredible 10th Anniversary experience.

The Saturday program will begin with an optional tour of the Canadian Human Rights Museum with the Gathering beginning with lunch afterwards. For the afternoon, in addition to learning from prairie participants on the July South Africa Stephen Lewis Foundation tour we will have an opportunity to learn from each other's expertise. Saturday evening will begin with a Marketplace of our Region's products. Who doesn't love an opportunity to shop for a good cause?! The highlight of the evening will be the "Conversation with Stephen Lewis and Ilana Landsberg-Lewis". Sunday will be an SLF day featuring African grandmothers sharing their stories, followed by workshops from the SLF staff.

As always our Gathering will be an opportunity for building relationships, sharing ideas and enjoying good food with each other. We hope that you are planning to join us in Winnipeg.

Seeking Leads to Showcase Best Practices in your Region...

Based on regional survey feedback, we are planning for the Saturday afternoon to be an opportunity to showcase your best practices through Round Table discussions. Some ideas that have come forward are:

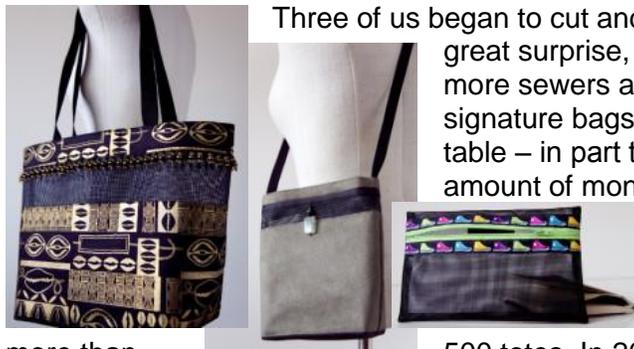
- how to build leadership capacity
- how to create and use social media such as Facebook, websites
- how to sustain and energize members
- fundraising topics such as Art from the Attic (AFTA), Scrabble, merchandise sales, etc.
- awareness ideas such as Speakers' Bureau, promotional materials, etc.
- events such as potluck dinners, gala dinners, etc.
- other ideas...

IF you are willing to lead a table conversation, please get in touch with Gail (Saskatchewan) or Deb (Manitoba).

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

The "Bag Project" in Manitoba – a little "herstory" from Grands 'n' More Winnipeg.

In November 2015 we celebrated the 7th year anniversary of the month in which we made our first tote bag and we are now in our 8th year of what has come to be known as the "bag project". Little did those of us who admired a tote bag made by BC seamstresses dream that the bags would be such a success here in Manitoba! We were amazed by the amount of money generated by BC grandmothers but we doubted that we could achieve the same results.



Three of us began to cut and sew in November 2008 and by the following March and to our great surprise, we had sold 224 totes! The following year we were joined by more sewers and we sold 1050 tote bags which have now become our signature bags. In 2010, we felt we needed to have more options on the sales table – in part to have something for people who didn't want to spend the amount of money that a tote bag cost. But it was also in response to customers who wanted to support us but who were complaining that their bags just wouldn't wear out and they couldn't justify buying a second one! We added shoulder bags and zippy bags and sold more than 800 of them plus

more than 500 totes. In 2011 we added chikwaamas (small toiletry bags), minis and maxi bags, balloon balls, glasses cases and seat belt sleeves. Four hundred totes sold that year and more than 1600 of the other items.

In 2012 we added bibs and aprons – the latter because customers kept buying the sales aprons we were wearing! We designed and made 200 conference bags for a group holding their national conference in Winnipeg and since then we have made conference bags for a number of other groups, including more than 400 this year alone. In 2014 we added leather shoulder bags (made from recycled leather coats) and toonie bags. We have sold approximately 1000 of the toonie bags every year since – clearly people want a change purse! In 2015 we added casserole totes and they are proving to be popular as well.

Currently we have approximately 18 women sewing their hearts out for the project plus many women from three Hutterite colonies in rural Manitoba who work extremely hard for us sewing totes, aprons and conference bags. There is no way we could have achieved the bag sales numbers that we have without their ongoing commitment to a cause which they have embraced so willingly. Four of our original group are still sewing for the project and we welcome new members to the group whenever we hear of them. We are very proud of the fact that in the seven years that we have been sewing we have sold more than 11,000 bags and other items. Gross sales during this time period exceeded \$226,000 with net proceeds of approximately \$176,000 being forwarded to the SLF.

G4G Moose Jaw

Moose Jaw is hosting an event at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 14th at St. Andrew's United Church, featuring a presentation by member Nola Ayers, who will be speaking about her experience as part of a 22-person Canadian delegation accompanying a SLF team to the Ugandan Grandmothers Gathering in October 2015. Refreshments will follow. An invitation is extended to members of Swift Current and Regina groups, as well as persons visiting the Moose Jaw area. A decision is pending regarding charging an admission fee versus soliciting voluntary donations.

Moose Jaw

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers

Member Nola Ayers presents on her recent trip to Uganda with the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Mon. March 14, 2016 at 7 pm

St. Andrew's Church
60 Athabasca Street East
Main Floor Lounge & Court, use West side door

Tea and Tasty Treats will be served.

Donations to the Stephen Lewis Foundation gratefully accepted. Amounts of \$20 and over eligible for a tax receipt.



The Lewis Foundation launched the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in March 2005, in response to the emerging crisis faced by African grandmothers as they struggled to care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS. The Campaign aims to raise awareness, build solidarity and mobilize support in Canada for Africa's grandmothers.
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

G4G Regina

G4G Regina cordially invites you to this exciting fund-raiser, with keynote speaker **Ilana Landsberg-Lewis**. Tickets can be purchased at Bach & Beyond in Regina, or by contacting Gail Greenberg @ 306-761-2304 or reginaq4gsponsorship@sasktel.net

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

JABULA! A FUNDRAISING EVENING
Saturday, April 30, 2016

Queensbury Convention Centre, Regina
Cocktails at 6:00 pm, Dinner and Program begin at 7:00 pm
Entertainment Silent Auction Raffle
Advance Tickets: \$65 from 306-761-2304, 306-949-1705
g4gregina@sasktel.net, or Bach & Beyond (1724 Batham Blvd.)

Guest Speaker: Ilana Landsberg-Lewis
Executive Director and co-Founder, Stephen Lewis Foundation

g4gregina@sasktel.net www.grandmothersgrandmotherregina.com

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FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-PROFIT GROUPS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Elections Saskatchewan has partnered with Canada Helps to facilitate a fundraising opportunity for non-profit groups in Saskatchewan during the upcoming election. It is also a great way to support the democratic process and meet new people. The sign-up process is pretty simple, as outlined below.



Volunteers sign up individually for various jobs in their constituency on Election Day April 4th. This is a long day, 11-12 hours, just bathroom and stretch breaks, but mostly sitting. You can also volunteer to work at advance polls from March 29th to April 1st when the shifts are 3.00 pm to 10.00pm. Training sessions are held between March 22nd and April 2nd.

Examples of remuneration are \$44.00 for training sessions, \$185.00 for poll clerks for Election Day. Volunteers on Election Day must vote in advance polls. Positions in some constituencies are filling up quickly, but when the returning officer calls you, you can indicate if you are willing to work in another constituency.

The first step is to see how it works here on our website: www.elections.sk.ca/workers/takepart/support-a-charity Then have all your group members who want to work the election and donate all, or some, of their election pay, sign up here: www.elections.sk.ca/workers/available-positions/job-application

After you sign up, you will be contacted by a Returning Officer within a few days. When you come to your in-person training session, you will tell them that you are supporting the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which is a registered charity with Canada Helps here:

www.canadahelps.org/en/search/app/?q=Stephen+Lewis&models=charity.charityprofile

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.

Kingston Grandmother Connections

The **Market for Africa** returns in November for its eighth year in Kingston, ON. Admission is free. Enjoy a delicious soup luncheon and shop for gifts from Africa and beyond. Sewing, baking, preserves, jewellery, art, books for children, gently used clothing, special treasures and several surprise local delectables.



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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