



Photo credit: Alexis MacDonald

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.

May 2016

NEWS FROM THE SLF AND OUR PRAIRIE REGION

The 10-year Anniversary of the Grandmothers Campaign



Prairie Region Gathering ~ September 24 & 25, 2016 Winnipeg

Here's a sneak peek at part of the program. You don't want to miss these, so be sure to register just as soon as the forms appear in your in-box!



1. Expressing Solidarity

This workshop asks us to explore the words and images we use as the SLF and as grandmothers groups to raise awareness in our communities. Rather than creating a list of “dos” and “don’ts”, we’ll commit to a process of learning and unlearning, questioning and checking in – all based on our shared values – that we can use to inform decisions about how we express our solidarity with African grandmothers.

2. Impact and Resilience

Resilience is the true measure of impact at the grassroots in Africa. This workshop explores community-based responses to the AIDS pandemic in Africa and the role of the SLF and more importantly, our African partners, in challenging and redefining measures of “success” at community-level, nationally and internationally.

3. Continuing the Conversation

In this workshop you will hear more from our special guests: the African grandmothers and project staff who are visiting in honour of the Campaign's 10 Year Anniversary. This is a wonderful opportunity for deeper conversation, asking questions and sharing your group's activities, successes and plans for the future!

G4G Saskatoon

Our big event in the last month was in fact not in Saskatoon but in Warman. Warman is a fast growing community just north of Saskatoon. Our **Speakers' Bureau** puppet and power point team made a presentation to 8, yes EIGHT, grade one classes. Thankfully the task was divided into 4 presentations of about forty children each. It was very interesting to observe the differences between one class and another. Our feedback was very positive. The granddaughter of one of our members was a very enthusiastic participant, and reports are that she proudly uses the G4G bookmark we gave her.



G4G Regina

A Fundraising Dinner What a memorable evening we had to mark our 10th year! Our 350 guests enjoyed the remarkable talent of the Campbell Collegiate Singers who entertained us with four lively pieces along an



African theme. This was particularly moving because our guest speaker, Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, not only gave us background, brought us success stories, but also challenged us with the urgent need to focus attention on the upcoming youth of the African countries lest they slide into another cycle of HIV/AIDS. For such work she emphasized the need for all grandmothers to continue to support the new definition of solidarity. This year's version of the silent auction and the raffle received great monetary support – wonderful to see several items for men and for children! As always, the meal was delicious – a buffet loaded with tasty options, and of course, a table of decadent desserts. Our thanks

to the banquet team at Evraz Place for doing all they could to support our event during the lengthy power outage!

A Special Walk For 11 years, G4G member Grace Jasper and her friends have been walking to raise funds for the SLF's Grandmothers Campaign. This spring, in their own version of Stride to Turn the Tide, Grace and her friend Marianne Boychuk raised \$2,400 through their annual walk. Congratulations and thank you so much!

Cathedral Village Arts Festival Not being the kind of women to stand still, we'll have our booth set up at the Montague Street end of the Cathedral Village Festival Street Fair on 13th Avenue, on May 28th. We hope you will visit us there.

Saskatchewan Network for Art Collecting G4G Regina would like to express their gratitude to Robin Schlaht of the Saskatchewan Network for Art Collecting for continuing to support our Art from the Attic fundraising initiative. Robin waives the seller's fee when we consign art to his twice yearly online art auction held on the international platform. Invaluable. Check out the current auction, which ends June 4th, and in which G4G Regina has two dozen pieces, at

<https://saskatchewanannac.infinitebidding.com/?method=getUpcomingAuctions>. Thank you, Robin!

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

Art from the Attic, Take Two, is underway. Publicity is going out (including ads in "The Winnipeg Sun", which has committed to three years of sponsorship), Active Management is providing us with free space to clean/price/organize the art as it comes in, drivers are out collecting donations, and the word continues to spread.

YM/YWCA "Women of Distinction" Award – About a dozen of our members attended this big gala in early May, having nominated Grands 'n' More Winnipeg in the "Volunteerism" category. It was quite the event – about 700 (mostly women) in attendance, and an impressive and amazing array of female leadership, courage, energy and commitment. None of us felt bad about losing to a bilingual 96-year-old, who "retired" in 1984, and has spent part of almost every day since then volunteering!

In late April, the **Knights of Columbus** (provincial) held a week-end convention at the Victoria Inn. The wives of the Knights had a brunch for women only, and invited us to join them. We were treated royally to a superb brunch, participated in a raffle where

everybody won a prize, and of course they listened to a power-point presentation of the work of Grands 'n' More. They were delighted to assist and in about an hour spent \$800.00.

The wife of the local organizer of the event has ordered some of our goods to take with her to another meeting in USA next month. As well, a \$100.00 donation was made to SLF.



Grandmothers Giving, Portage la Prairie

Grandmothers Giving outlined our plans for this year's fundraising projects at our April 25th meeting and we are busy getting started on our activities:

- **Perennial Plant Sale:** To start off the year we are holding a Perennial Plant Sale in cooperation with the Portage Community Revitalization Corp. (PCRC) on May 14th. Members have volunteered to donate perennials and they will bring them to the sale. A new initiative after the success of last year's Plant and Bake sales.



- **COOP BBQ:** Our local **Marketplace COOP** allows non-profits in our community to raise funds through a BBQ lunch offered at the COOP. They donate some items, provide the BBQ, and we cook and serve Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Smokies for a fee. Proceeds go to the charity – so we have two Fridays booked this season and we will see how well they go. Last year we had a rainy day but raised about \$400 over lunch for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.



- **Plant and Bake Sales:** In cooperation with ladies from the Fairholme Colony we are once again holding our **Peony Farm Plant and Bake Sale** at Brenda Miller Adams' home on May 28th as part of her community Garage Sale. People have already been asking Brenda if we will have those famous Cinnamon Buns and Coffee available again! The Colony does the baking for us and we sell Cinnamon Buns, Multigrain Dinner Rolls and freshly baked Bread. Everything sold out last year, so expecting a good time. As well, we



will have leftover perennials, and possibly bedding plants from the Colony that were a great hit last year. A fun event and a great way to meet our neighbours!

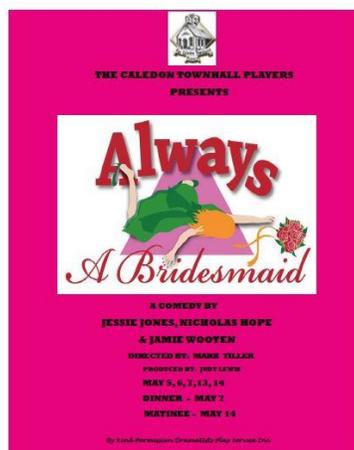
- **Stride to Turn the Tide Walk 2016:** This year's Walk will be on Sunday, June 12th in Island Park, Portage la Prairie starting at 12:30 p.m. with a BBQ lunch and followed by the Walk in the Park at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and it's a great time! A wonderful social time for our group while raising more money for the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.



UPCOMING EVENT: Grandmothers Giving Fall Dinner will be on Sunday, September 11th at the Herman Prior Centre in Portage la Prairie at 5:30 p.m. Once again there will be an **African Marketplace** – plans are in the works for our 10th Anniversary Dinner!

IDEAS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

ORANGEVILLE GO GO GRANNIES PRESENT ~
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8:15 PM
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INFORMATION:
(519) 942-1738

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. This month, we're featuring a theatre production held by a group in Ontario.

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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