

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

SASKATCHEWAN REGION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



The Saskatchewan Region Newsletter is intended to keep grandmothers groups across the province connected to each other and informed about the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign.

NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

Group Regional Liaison AGM/Retreat, held in Toronto from April 4 to 6, 2018, was attended by 13 GRLs from across Canada and several of the Foundation staff.

A common theme in discussions was the “aging out factor” and looking at ways to attract a broader demographic – younger and more racially diverse. Points covered included:

- Supporting the current members and recognizing the great work they have done as well as the challenges they are facing
- Recruiting and mentoring new leaders
- Outreach for new members and creation of new groups, including ideas on ways to attract newly retired women, such as attending groups that have a demographic similar to our own – i.e. felting or quilting groups.
- Olivia Chow, professor at Ryerson, gave a presentation on Building Skills for Change. One of the exercises was a role-play in which we met with an acquaintance, engaged them in a discussion with a goal of discovering their core values and interests, told them about the work of the Campaign and identified to them how the Campaign aligned with their values and interests, and then invited them to a G4G event or meeting.
- A survey template will be provided by the Foundation to gather information about members as we focus on renewal. The survey will provide groups with a summary of membership interests, skills, and concerns that can guide us as we move forward.

Leah Teklemariam, Director of Programs, gave an interesting presentation about the emotional support and recovery process for African grandmothers and others. It is recognized that the western concept of PTSD generally does not apply, as often the trauma and instability continue. One African expressed it well, “**Our** nightmares are during the day.” Connections have been made with the University of Toronto for development of a new model of mental health geared to situations such as those in Africa, also applicable to groups such as asylum seekers.

We discussed the Foundation's advocacy for LGBTQ rights. As members, we may be questioned about the Foundation's role. The Foundation is preparing a “10 questions” document and this will be shared with the groups.

The Foundation is working on a *Powered by Love* guide to be used for book club study. This will include background information on the book and suggested questions. This is something that can be promoted in our communities through Library or private book clubs.

Ilana spoke in her usual articulate and passionate manner. She addressed the issue of “marketing” the campaign as a formal strategy. A new infusion of energy is needed. While there has been so much improvement in Africa there is still urgency and we need to define and articulate the evolution of the African Grandmothers and the Campaign.

We discussed how being a member of the Campaign adds meaning to our own lives: friendships, shared goals, opportunities to use our skills and abilities, laughter, empathy and support for each other. The many ways that we benefit from our involvement should not be overlooked and should be shared as we seek to sustain and expand our community of Grandmothers and others.

When we look at the work with grandmothers, achieving resilience is really what it's all about. All the immediate work around housing, healthcare, etc. or for children, their education – the goal at the end of it is for the grandmother to be able to manage their own lives, and for children to be able to stand on their own feet and face the world. That's what we are really aiming at. ~ Project Partner in Uganda

Grandmothers on the Move

Ilana is releasing a podcast called “Grandmothers on the Move” in which she interviews grandmothers around the world. Listen here for the first episode which is coming soon: <http://grandmothersonthemove.com>.

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."
~ Mahatma Gandhi*

NEWS FROM AROUND SASKATCHEWAN

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Moose Jaw

Our group hosted a **Paint Night** on March 17th at Moose Jaw Anavets Hall. It was a room full of ladies wearing a Bit O’Green while sign painting on St. Paddy’s Day.

We were delighted that a bridal stagette party took part in the crafty afternoon. What a Hoot! People can have fun while helping others. The event made \$220.00.



This September we will be having a roast beef supper fundraiser at Buggy's in the Town & Country Mall. Tickets will be \$20.00 each.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

A Chair Affair

Since the last provincial newsletter, much energy has been focused toward our next fundraiser on June 9th, called 'A Chair Affair'. Our community has once again stepped up to support us - first by donating used chairs, stools and benches as well as 50 artists donating their talents to re-imagine these items. Excitement is building for the live and silent auction on June 9th. Yes, we even have an auctioneer for the live auction! A cash bar and finger foods will be available throughout the evening at the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

Art from the Attic

Our 6th 'Art from the Attic' sale will be held on September 22nd. Planning is just beginning for this event, which continues to be very popular with our community. We are grateful for both the magnitude of art donations, and for the excited buyers who support us each year. There is something for every taste and budget. We are fortunate once again to have secured a donated space where the art is prepared, priced, and stored. We will again sell some of the high-end art twice a year through on-line auctions with the Saskatchewan Network for Art Collecting.

Women, Wisdom & Wine



Several of our members gathered for "Women, Wisdom & Wine." This was a space to brainstorm opportunities for fundraisers and social activities for G4G Regina. Some great ideas were generated, which were presented to members at our April meeting. We hope to put together a plan to propel us forward for the next couple of years.

We continue to stand in awe of, and in solidarity with, the Grandmothers in Africa.

Swift Current Grandmothers and Grandothers

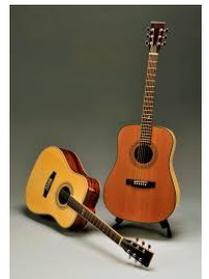
Bag and Bling Sale

On Saturday May 12, Swift Current Grandmothers and Grandothers held its **Bag and Bling Sale** at the Swift Current Mall. The bags, gently used purses, and the bling, gently used jewellery, are donated from the community. As always, there was an abundance of riches! Items are not individually priced. Rather, we ask buyers to take what they can use and make a donation to the Grandmothers Campaign. People are usually very generous. Of course, we take the opportunity to raise awareness about the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This has been a popular event in past years; now people will phone to see if there will be a sale coming up! Whatever items remain at the end of the day we distribute to other local helping organizations such as Salvation Army Thrift Store, Mennonite Central Committee store, Community Living, and a local church which operates a garage sale/rummage sale once a week. In addition to the bags and bling, we raffled a lovely handmade quilt donated by one of our local quilters and a Saskatoon pie made by one of our members. Another of our members had a table to sell beautiful scarves made by women in Nepal. Half those profits went to our group. We are still doing our books but expect to profit around \$3,000 for the day's work.



Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Prince Albert

On April 22nd, G4G Prince Albert held its 11th annual **Arioso Concert** and it was a fabulous event. The theme was a Kitchen Party-Prairie Style including a comedy set about pirates and featuring 14, 15, and 20 year old performers who played the violin extremely well. Two did a movement for the Concert for two violins by Bach, and all three did two numbers that were more Kitchen Party style and very zippy!! All of the cookies sold and we heard lots of comments about a wonderful evening and a great concert. As people were leaving, there were smiles all around! We will soon be talking with Arioso for next year's concert.



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