



# 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.*

September 2014

## WHO'S WHO in the SLF NETWORK

We are so pleased to introduce two of the wonderful staff of the Grandmothers Campaign.

### Graham Coultas



Graham Coultas is the Director of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. He joined the Stephen Lewis Foundation in 2006 after the Toronto Grandmothers Gathering and immediately got to work trying to keep up with an ever-growing number of grandmothers groups! Prior to coming to the Foundation, Graham took on a variety of roles working with AIDS service organizations in Canada, including hospice work, fundraising initiatives and a national education initiative with young people. He has presented in classrooms and at conferences big and small about HIV/AIDS, youth and the Grandmothers Campaign.

Graham is a feminist, community organizer, social justice activist and admirer of grandmothers everywhere. And yes, his mother was Ms. August in the Quite Grannies for Africa "calendar girls" fundraiser.

### Yasmin Mussa



Yasmin Mussa is a Grandmothers Campaign Officer, and is lucky enough to work with grandmothers groups in the Prairies. Yasmin first came to the Foundation as part of the Dare Campaign in 2009, and it was this experience on the Dare Campaign that sparked her interest in working in the HIV/AIDS sector, and led her to pursue a year-long placement in Botswana at a pediatric HIV clinic. Yasmin returned to the Foundation last year as the Stride Coordinator before taking up her current role as a Campaign Officer. Yasmin has been a long-time fan of the Grandmothers Campaign, and enjoys every aspect of working with grandmothers groups as a resource – and of course, the delicious food that comes along with attending events! Most of all, Yasmin remains in awe of the dedication of grandmothers across the country, and it inspires her every day.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE FIELD

### A Mother's Plea

by Pat Malis

I am a number  
One of 34 million,  
charted geographically,  
analyzed over board room tables,  
a cold statistic on reams of paper

But I am a human being  
not a calculation  
My tears are invisible  
on this bar graph of life

For 14.2 million of us

there is no medicine

And how do I tell my son?  
He knows only my love  
and soon I will be too weak  
to wrap my arms around him

AIDS will take me away from him  
and then he will be a number  
One of millions of orphans,  
charted geographically,  
analyzed over board room tables

in a world where everyone counts

Pat Malis is a member of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg who writes to come to terms with injustice and inequality.

## FROM OUR REGION

### Prairie Region Gathering 2014

Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

St Paul's United Church, 454 Egbert Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The Gathering program includes local entertainment, the film *Seeking Justice at the Frontlines of the AIDS Crisis: African Grandmothers Tribunal*, and a reception. Saturday brings plenary and break-out sessions, and wraps up with more local entertainment. We'll have a re-cap in the next newsletter.

### Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

**Art from the Attic:** This very successful event was held on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 1600 pieces of art changed hands, and the money raised exceeded \$25,000! The local newspaper carried an article that certainly helped to boost donations and attendance at the event. Click here to read all about it:

<http://www.leaderpost.com/Grandmothers+gather+donated+sell+support+charity/10179189/story.html>



**Scrabble for Africa:** G4G Regina's 7<sup>th</sup> annual Scrabble for Africa event will be held on **Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Participants collect pledges in advance, and then come to play a friendly game of Scrabble. There will be prizes for top individual and team fundraisers, top Scrabble table scores, as well as draws and fun challenges.

**Community Activities:** We'll be set up at the Women's History Month event on October 14<sup>th</sup> with information and merchandise. A few weeks later, we'll have our booth at Wintergreen Fine Craft Market. If you're in Regina between November 14 and 16, do drop by and visit us at the Conexus Arts Centre.

**Social Media Workshop:** G4G Regina applied for and received a New Horizons for Seniors grant to hold a social media workshop on December 5. We've called it, "Not As Scary As You Think!" The goals of the workshop are to teach seniors how to safely use social media to keep in touch with friends and family, to follow and learn about current events both in the community and Internationally through Facebook and Twitter, and to provide an opportunity for organizations that serve seniors to share ideas and learn more about Social Media to advance their causes. Check our website for more details as they become available.

## Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Saskatoon

**Fabric Sale** G4G Saskatoon is holding its third annual event on **October 18<sup>th</sup>**, at St Martin's United Church (2617 Clarence Avenue S, Saskatoon), from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We appreciate receiving donations of unused fabric 0.5m or more, quilting fabric, thread, embellishments, sewing notions... yarn, knitting needles... no patterns please (unless new or for a specialty like crafts, home décor...) People can drop off their donations at St Martin's on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. For questions or to arrange for donations, call Wilma Roosdahl 306-382-2356 / Susan Ashton 306-373-3210 / Jenny Neal 306-343-9448.



**Annual African Dinner Save the Date** We are beginning planning for our 10<sup>th</sup> annual dinner on **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, and envision it is a celebration of the wonderful outcomes that have been achieved by Grandmothers in Africa and locally through our collective efforts.

## Grandmothers Giving, Portage la Prairie

**Grandmothers Giving Fall Dinner** The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Dinner was held on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5:30 PM at the Herman Prior Centre, Portage la Prairie. Over 250 people were in attendance to enjoy a wonderful fall supper together. The evening featured an African marketplace with Kazuri jewelry sold by the Portage la Prairie grandmothers group as well as grandmother bags and other merchandise from Grands 'n' More Winnipeg. The agreement with Kazuri is coming to an end, so this is the final opportunity to buy this outstanding jewelry. This has been a wonderful fundraiser for our group and the SLF.

**Quilt Raffle** Tickets are being sold for an African symbols quilt, a lap quilt and a set of placemats with a table runner, all quilted by a local Hutterite colony and members of the Country Lane Quilters. Tickets are available from the group for \$2 each or 3/\$5, however tickets can only be sold in Manitoba due to licensing.

## Grands 'n' More Winnipeg The Tribunal Film

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg and the Manitoba Teachers' Society are co-hosting a special viewing of the film, "African Grandmothers Tribunal: Seeking Justice at the Frontlines of the AIDS crisis, on Thursday, October 16, 2014, in the Auditorium, McMaster House, 191 Harcourt St., Winnipeg. 6:30 p.m. – Refreshments; 7:00 p.m. – Film Presentation and Discussion. [Click here](#) to view the trailer for the African Grandmothers Tribunal film!

**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.*

## NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

### Thank you from one of the project partners:

Following the Canadian Grandmothers visit to the projects in March 2014, the SLF received this note from Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust: *Thank you for the humble, respectful spirit with which you came. Our partnership with SLF is a model of such a healthy donor-recipient partnership because we always feel so respected and supported by you and your team. We wish all donors could take the same approach and form similar partnerships!*

### Canadian Museum of Human Rights

On Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights will open in Winnipeg. The Grandmothers Campaign, and Grands 'n' More Winnipeg in particular, is part of a special display at the Museum. Click on this link to read all about it: <https://humanrights.ca/blog/yarn-bombing-grandmothers>



## RESOURCES

### How to Start a Grandmothers Group

Growing the Campaign is critical to ensuring we raise the funds required to increase the SLF partnerships with the community-based organizations in the 15 African countries hardest hit by the pandemic. If you have a friend or family member in a community that doesn't currently have a Grandmothers group, please let them know the SLF is here to help. To help new groups get started, there is a very useful document available on the website. Click here to read it: [http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/q2g\\_tips\\_startgroup1.pdf](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/q2g_tips_startgroup1.pdf)



If you would like more information on anything you read in this newsletter, 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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