

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

SASKATCHEWAN REGION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 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.

All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual.

~ Albert Einstein

NEWS FROM AROUND SASKATCHEWAN

Grandmothers and Grandmothers, Swift Current

Simply Jazz. Swift Current Grandmothers and Grandmothers is hosting a "Simply Jazz " concert on Sunday, November 18th, at 7:00 pm at Walker Place, 2150 Walker Street. Doors open at 6:15pm and a cash bar is provided. Tickets are \$20 and available at Pharmasave. Performers include the Swift Current Jazz Orchestra and the Swift Current Comprehensive High School Jazz Ensemble. We look forward to an evening of great music and an opportunity to promote the work of the Grandmothers Campaign.

SIMPLY JAZZ
AN EVENING OF
HOT JAZZ & COOL CATS
SUNDAY, NOV. 18TH 2018
7:00 P.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 6:15 P.M.
CASH BAR PROVIDED
WALKER PLACE
2150 WALKER STREET,
ENTRANCE B
SWIFT CURRENT
TICKETS: \$20.00 - AVAILABLE
AT PHARMASAVE

FEATURING
SWIFT CURRENT JAZZ ORCHESTRA
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GREG MCLEAN
&
SWIFT CURRENT COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL
JAZZ ENSEMBLE
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF BRIANNA DENNEHY

SPONSORED BY GRANDMOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS
Grandmothers and Grandmothers is a group of local women who work on behalf of
Stephen Lewis Foundation and its Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.
All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Nipawin & District Grandmother for Grandmothers

Carol Festival: The Nipawin and District G4G will be hosting their annual Carol festival December 1st at the Nipawin United Church at 7:00 pm.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Moose Jaw

We hosted a Roast Beef Supper at Buggy's on September 27, 2018. About 70 people attended and we made about \$1,000.

We have a table booked at the Trade Show & Flea Market on October 19th & 20th at Zion United Church at 423 Main Street N. We will be selling pre-cut new quilting fabric and made-in-Uganda Stocking Stuffers. On Friday the sale will be from 11 am-6 pm and on Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. There will be over 40 vendors at this sale.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Prince Albert

Granny's Kitchen Tea and Sale On October 20th from 2 - 4 pm we will be holding our Relax in Granny's Kitchen Tea and Sale. This year the theme is SPA. We have had a beautiful queen size quilt made and donated by a woman from Candle Lake as first prize; 2 beautiful framed pictures donated as second prize; and a gorgeous shawl knitted and donated as third prize. We have been selling tickets at our Lakeland Co-op and we were almost sold out after only one day of selling!!

Arioso Concert On April 14, 2019 we will host our 12th Annual Arioso Concert at Plaza 88, at 7:30. This year's concert will include youth singers in a couple of numbers and a surprise number. This is usually our biggest fundraiser and we are looking forward to another great success!

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

G4G Regina has continued to be a hive of activity, and has just completed 2 successful fundraisers. A Chair Affair, held in June, saw 50 auctioned chairs that had been skillfully repurposed by artists. This was our first attempt at a new fundraiser and needless to say we were thrilled that all the months of planning and hard work paid off for a profit of approximately \$30,000. We are considering doing another similar event down the road.

Our sixth annual Art from the Attic was held in September and while the final tally is being worked on, we have made approximately \$16,000. More proceeds will be generated from two on-line art auctions during the year, where we sell some of our higher-end items. We are happy G4G'ers with these two events under our belts!

Our merchandise committee was resurrected, and we have two merchandise events coming up in October and November. We have ordered South African fabric to make napkins and microwave bowl cozies, and we continue to make and sell our popular tote bags. As well, we are planning to hold our 10th annual Scrabble for Africa in November. This has proven to be a great fundraiser. We are so grateful for the breadth of community support we receive for all of our events. And finally, stay tuned for our Fabric, Yarn and More spring fundraiser which is in the planning stages.

NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

Letter from our Executive Director and Co-Founder

I admit I am tremendously passionate about the contents of this Annual Review www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/assets/files/SLF_AnnualReview2017_TogetherWeAreStronger.pdf! It documents the critical importance our community-based partners give to psychosocial care in overcoming the history of hardship visited upon people as a result of HIV& AIDS.

When the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) set out to develop an Impact Assessment Framework (IAF), collaborating with our grassroots partners in sub-Saharan Africa, we wanted to ensure that we could document *all* of the dimensions of the profound impact of grassroots initiatives on the lives of people affected and infected by HIV & AIDS. We were acutely aware that traditional impact-measuring systems have privileged quantifiable results - numbers of children in school, numbers of grandmother-headed households being supported, numbers of people living with HIV accessing treatment, etc. My colleagues and I felt a profound frustration, however, knowing that our community-based partners were *doing so much more* than providing support that could be counted. Our partners bring hope to families and communities with new support structures and the resilience to move beyond the agony of grief for so many loved ones lost to AIDS.

We all know, intrinsically, that learning to cope with grief, reclaiming a sense of well-being and hope is the most profound, human and necessary goal in overcoming a crisis. But how do you measure well-being? How could we capture the world- altering and essential moment when a child traumatized by the loss of her parents feels safe and emotionally well enough to play again and have hopes for her future? How to document all the remarkable, sensitive work of community-based organizations to bring grandmothers out of their mourning to embrace the future, muster the energy to raise another generation of children, and feel renewed joy and a sense of triumph? These aren't 'nice' by-products of good programmes, *they are the whole point*.

Tracking psychological and emotional change is not an academic exercise—the traditional measurements of success focussed on numbers and outputs lead directly to funding. It is imperative, then, to work with our grassroots partners to develop ways to document the potent centrality of psychosocial care and emotional healing, and to re-conceptualise what success looks like. The funding for the community-based work on HIV & AIDS that makes a real and powerful difference depends on it.

The fabric of lives unraveled by AIDS is slowly being stitched back together, with care and urgency. This report highlights the sophistication and beauty of that work—a breath taking testament to the insight and dedication of all the staff, counsellors and community volunteers who work with such dedication to restore a sense of well-being and promise to their communities.

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis

Executive Director and Co-Founder, Stephen Lewis Foundation

Together We Are Stronger
The Stephen Lewis Foundation
2017 Year in Review



BUT WHAT WILL THE COMMUNITY THINK?

As the grandmothers began to breach the boundaries of societal norms and expectations, it was no surprise that they began to experience resistance. Here again, community-based organizations proved invaluable.

These communities are poor and vulnerable and AIDS has pushed them to the brink. There are cases when providing a new home for a grandmother has resulted in problems for her in the community because of jealousy. People can say, “A school principal can work his whole life and can’t afford to build a home and now an old woman gets one?” Or her relatives may have been waiting for her to die to take her land because they are desperate for her resources. Suddenly her health is better, so this becomes a threat to them in a way. So you see the problems? She and her grandchildren were in danger living in an old house that was about to fall on them. They get a new house and now they are in danger of the community and her family turning on them.

So this is something we are thinking about as an organization. We are thinking of a project called Light up a Village. The idea is this: we build a house for a granny and we make microcredit for solar power available to her whole village. Solar power can be very difficult to access so we can broker all those arrangements and make it very easy. In this way people will want the granny housing projects in their village because it brings benefit to them, too. That granny and her kids will belong to everyone again. *Justine Ojambo, co-founder and national director, PEFO, Uganda*

From **Powered by Love - A Grandmothers’ Movement to End AIDS in Africa** by Joanna Henry with Ilana Landsberg-Lewis



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