

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

SASKATCHEWAN REGION

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018



Photo credit: Edward Echwalu

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.

WELCOME

We have a new Region, and with it a new document to communicate with and among the seven groups in our province. This is the first of a quarterly newsletter. Please send any submissions for May's newsletter by April 18th.

Introducing...Nola Ayers, Grandmothers Regional Liaison, Saskatchewan Region



Nola joined the Grandmothers Campaign in 2012 and is a member of both the Moose Jaw and Regina groups. She retired in 2010 from a career in health care as a Labour Relations Consultant and then as Executive Director of Human Resources for the Five Hills Health Region. She travelled to Africa in 2015 with the Foundation for the Uganda National Grandmothers Gathering. Nola enjoys hiking, traveling, knitting and spending time with friends and family. Her 10th grandchild arrived this January!

And...Megan Karges



Megan Karges is a Grandmothers Campaign Officer with the Stephen Lewis Foundation. She works with grandmothers groups in Quebec, Northern Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Greater Vancouver Area. Prior to joining the SLF, Megan was the communications manager at LitWorld, an organization that partners with community-based organizations to run literacy programs for women and girls.

The Seven Saskatchewan Groups

- Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Moose Jaw
- Nipawin & District Grandmothers for Grandmothers
- Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Prince Albert
- Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina
- Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Saskatoon
- Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Shellbrook
- Grandmothers and Grandothers, Swift Current



NEWS FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

Aeroplan Miles Matching Week

Each year, Aeroplan gives the Stephen Lewis Foundation a week when donated miles will be matched on a one-for-one basis up to 500,000 Aeroplan Miles. The SLF week is from February 5th to 11th.

Donated miles are used to support work in 15 African countries and enabling the Foundation to bring the voices of African grandmothers and grassroots leaders to the forefront and to send the field representative to see the projects and bring together community workers to share strategies and experience.

To donate: <http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/ways-to-give/aeroplan-miles>

NEWS FROM AROUND SASKATCHEWAN

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Saskatoon

We have our fundraising dinner on Friday, March 9th with special guest artist, Connie Kaldor.



Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Saskatoon
www.g4gsaskatoon.ca

13th Annual Dinner
To support the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

Special guest artist
Connie Kaldor

March 9, 2018
Western Development Museum
Reception 5:00 • Program Starts 6:15 • Dinner (new menu) 6:30
Tickets \$50 • Cash Wine/Beer Bar
MC - Brenda Baker

For tickets contact Jenifer Downer at 306-242-4989
or Maureen Cline at 306-373-0087
Available at McNally Robinson Booksellers December 1st

GRANDMOTHERS AND GRANDOTHERS, SWIFT CURRENT



We are planning a **Bag and Bling Sale** on Saturday, May 12 at the Swift Current Mall. We will sell donated gently used bags and jewellery. It has been quite a successful project in the past.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Prince Albert

Arioso Concert. On Sunday, April 22nd, G4G Prince Albert will hold its 11th annual Arioso Concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Plaza 88, 888 Central Avenue. Tickets are \$20.00 each. Arioso is an amazing trio of women who sing wonderfully, accompanied by backup musicians. We will sell our Granny Cookies at this event (last year we sold 600 dozen before Intermission was over!) and together they make this event our **biggest** fundraiser of the year!

Stride to Turn the Tide. We will participate in the national walk this spring.



Street Fair. We will have a table at the local Street Fair, usually held in mid-June. In the past, we have sold cookies, jams and jellies, etc., and generated about \$1300. Although not our biggest event, it does put us in front of the community.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Moose Jaw

Sign Painting Class: G4G Moose Jaw is hosting a Sign Painting Class through Starlight Creations. It will be held at Anavets, 279 High Street West on Saturday, March 17th from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Check them out on Facebook – Starlight Creations. Registration deadline for the class is March 10.



Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina

We are now in our 12th year of operation, and despite declining membership we continue to produce successful fundraisers.

Art from the Attic was held in mid-September and was well supported by the donors and customers in the community. During the one-day sale and two on-line auctions we raised over \$20,000.

November 5th saw 4-person teams participate in **Scrabble & More**, the *More* being cribbage. Sponsorship by Taylor Motors Automotive Group continues to provide the means to purchase prizes for this fundraiser, which raised around \$10,000. On-line pledges generated 40% of the donations, a process that is straightforward and facilitated our reach across the miles.

Currently, we are focusing on a fundraiser to be held on June 9th, 2018. **A Chair Affair** will be held at the MacKenzie Art Gallery. The donation of over 80 used chairs, stools and benches has triggered numerous work bees to prepare these “canvasses” for some 45 artists. This endeavor, new to our group, has elicited considerable interest.



We continue to raise funds, create awareness and build solidarity with African Grandmothers and are pleased to share that we have now surpassed over \$750,000 to help stabilize the lives of Grandmothers and Others in Africa.

ONE STORY... about Regina Mokgokong, Tateni, South Africa

"I have never met a woman with a greater gift for tackling the enormity of situation by paying attention to the smallest details. Nowhere is this more evident than her work with children and teens orphaned by HIV and AIDS.

Most of these children come under the care of Tateni when their ill parents start receiving home-based nursing care. According to Regina, "Tateni always treats the whole family, not just the one person who is sick." Nkulie came under their care when her mother fell ill and continues with Tateni now that her mother is gone.

Tateni currently cares for over 300 children and teens orphaned by HIV and AIDS and their programs provide for both the practical as well as psycho-social needs of vulnerable children including taking photographs of the children and making albums – so they have a record of their childhood. Regina tracks down photos of the children's parent, if any exist, mainly finding them through salvaging old ID cards. As she explains "Many children lose their parents when they are so young and will grow without remembering the face of their mother – just imagine it."

Birthday parties are thrown for orphaned children, complete with cake, birthday cards and photos "so these children can feel just like normal children with parents who love them."

Regina gets old mirrors donated to Tateni and distributes them to home with orphaned children and teens "so they can see themselves for the first time, they can know 'oh, this is what I look like, aren't I smart?' or 'I have big ears' or 'look at that nose' and they can know who they are."

All of these activities operate from the same principal – that a sense of self and identity is one of the greatest assets a child and young adult can have when negotiating their way through life, and is the very thing least likely to develop in a child with no parents. Add to this the increased financial insecurity inherited by most orphaned children and you have a potent recipe for extreme vulnerability...

This is why Tateni's programs are such a brilliant combination of meeting practical needs like food as well as tables and lights where children can do homework at the centre (since most homes are not equipped with either) along with the less obvious needs of motherless child.

Regina operates from a simple philosophy that every child has a dream and if they can see a way forward to achieving that dream "they will be wearing blinders to all these distractions, pressures and troubles, because they will be looking ahead into their future." She tells the story of Julian – a boy that arrived at Tateni suddenly one day looking the "worse for wear". When she asked him about his father he answered in an offhanded way "dead." When asked about his mother – "dead". According to Regina "we knew we had to help that boy so we started asking him about his goals, what did he want? He answered 'to be a swimmer in Germany.' We didn't understand why, but that was what was in his heart and in his head and we knew we would do everything to make this happen." Currently Julian is under the care of Tateni and is getting swimming lessons. According to Regina "We don't have to understand, but somehow, some way, that boy will swim in Germany one day. That's what focuses him. That's what keeps him alive."

Regina doesn't get bogged down in the enormity of the task at hand and I am pretty sure she is not overly occupied with the tally of HIV/AIDS orphans across the continent. She is intent however on empowering every one of the children and young people that cross her path. She rolls up her sleeves and gets the work done."

~ Joanna Henry, Stephen Lewis Foundation

Nola Ayers, Grandmothers Regional Liaison, Saskatchewan Region

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