



# Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

In support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation  
Awareness ✦ Fundraising ✦ Solidarity

## NEWSLETTER

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### Links to Grands 'n' More Winnipeg:

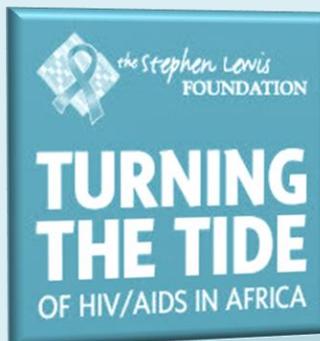
[Webpage](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

### Events:

**All events are postponed  
until further notice.**



OF HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA



## News from the Co-Chairs

Covid-19 continues to challenge us, but motivated by the spirit that Africa's grandmothers demonstrate by stepping in to care for orphaned children, we ask all of you to step up and carry forward our fundraising efforts crucial in supporting these grandmothers, grandchildren and their communities.

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg is charging full speed ahead with an online store. Read more about this exciting endeavour in this newsletter. Most importantly, share the news and let us know about your creative efforts that we can add to the inventory.

We don't know yet when it will be safe to hold members meetings again. In the future, we plan to ask for your input on preferred meeting times and days. We have been meeting on Thursday evenings for some time now. Perhaps it's time for a change?

As always, keep safe, keep active and keep Grands 'n' More Winnipeg in top of mind. We welcome feedback, ideas on fundraising and how to grow our Winnipeg group.

*Submitted by Fran Gropp*

grandmothers  
campaign  
to  
grandmothers



Photo by: Peter Bregg

## ONLINE SHOPPING

In time for Christmas shopping, the Grands 'n' More Winnipeg online store is now open! You will find a link to the site at the end of this article. Please consider sharing information about the online store and the website link on your Facebook, Instagram or Twitter accounts if you use them. It would be greatly appreciated if you send the link to all your email friends and family and ask them to share with their contacts as well.

With no certainty of when we will be able to hold in person fundraising events again, the Coordinating Committee looked into ways we could sell items online. More importantly, we needed to be able to take payment online in order to minimize contact with the public and protect our members. It was determined that using the basic free Square Online Store would suit our needs and that it would only take a small percentage of each item's cost as a fee.

Once a shopper is on the Home Page of the site, there is a brief explanation of who Grands 'n' More Winnipeg is and our purpose of fundraising for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's (SLF) Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. The Home Page shows a few "featured items" but the full shopping experience starts when one clicks the 'Shop Now' button located at top right of the Home Page (if viewing on a computer screen) or by clicking the menu icon, (the three parallel lines located top left of home screen) if viewing on a phone. Click on the item picture to find details, price and ability to add to cart. Checkout is easy and secure.

Donnie Fridfinnson has volunteered her home as the pickup location as it is fairly centrally located. Pickups will be contactless. Also, due to the generous offer of volunteers, we have added a local delivery option. Delivery will be free for orders greater than \$100. A delivery fee of \$10 will be charged for all other orders. As with the net proceeds of sales, the proceeds from delivery fees will be donated to the SLF.

Members will notice that in addition to the beautiful bags, bibs and balloon balls our volunteer sewers have consistently provided over the years, we've been able to add some new items: gorgeous necklaces made by Jacky Molyneux; African jewelry donated by members who have travelled to Africa

with the SLF; charming Guardian Angel Dolls made by members in the style of dolls made in Africa; and even marigold seeds harvested from Donnie's corner boulevard.

As well, we have set up a category for Art From the Attic (AFTA) where we can sell pieces that have been previously donated and have been sitting in members' homes.

For those who do not like to do business online, please remember that any of these items may be purchased by cheque and arrangements for pick up can be made. Contact Nina, 204-832-5569, or just complete the form at the bottom of the online shopping home page where you can make this request.

We hope members will be inspired to come up with other unique items to sell on this new site. With the range of talent we have among our members, we could really diversify our fundraising efforts for the SLF! If you are a crafter or artist or have ideas for items that can be sold on this site, big or small, contact Nina Logan ([ninalogan@shaw.ca](mailto:ninalogan@shaw.ca)) or Pat van Herksen ([pavanherksen@gmail.com](mailto:pavanherksen@gmail.com)).

Although we prefer that members pay for their memberships by cheque mailed to our membership lead Agnes Brydon, there is the opportunity to pay for memberships through this online store. Anyone using this method should expect a follow up contact from Agnes to complete our membership form.

Thanks to Jacky Molyneux, Sharon Twilley, Nina Logan, Heather Colquhoun, Fran Gropp and Barb Fletcher who have supported and guided this project to bring shopping for Grands 'n' More Winnipeg merchandise into people's homes. As well, special thanks to Carol Hibbert, Betty Nesbitt and all our volunteer sewers who, without their hours dedicated to making the wonderful hand sewn products, this site would not be possible.

Remember, tell all your friends.

Happy online shopping!

<https://grands-n-more-winnipeg.square.site/>

*Submitted by Donnie Fridfinnson*



## FUNDRAISING IN A PANDEMIC

Who would ever believe we would start a report with that title? The stark reality is that despite the pandemic, we need to continue our support for the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. The grandmothers of sub-Saharan Africa are not only continuing to struggle to care for their orphaned grandchildren, but the added stress of the pandemic only exacerbates their difficulties.

With our usual sales being curtailed, there was a need for an alternate strategy. Your Coordinating Committee members are committed to continue the fundraising efforts by starting our online store. Our merchandise has been photographed and described and offered for sale with a click of your device. The site is secure for your credit card and the money goes directly to the Grands 'n' More Winnipeg account to be sent to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. For a small fee, you can choose delivery to your home, or free contactless pick up. As we are raising funds for a registered charity, you do not pay GST or PST.

What can you do to support this initiative? You can purchase goods for yourself and gifts for others. You can spread the site far and wide with your family and friends and ask them to spread it to their contacts too. At this time we are only serving Winnipeg, but there has been discussion of maybe expanding to a mail order system.

Browse the site and let us know what you think. It is an evolving system with new goods added from time to time. The new 'Winnie' Totes are sure to be a hit with our customers. Thanks to Betty and all the sewers. Jacky has donated a dazzling line of pendants in various shapes and sizes. Our ever popular balloon balls, baby bibs and the mini, maxi and new Mega bags all make wonderful gifts. The stylish Boho bags are now on sale and we have a new supply of maxis with cork design.

*Submitted by Nina Logan and Pat van Herksen*



# AWARENESS

For our own Awareness... Let's look at the latest Grassroots bulletin:

<https://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/assets/files/SLF-Grassroots-Fall-2020.pdf>

And In case you missed an earlier yet still timely interview with Stephen Lewis...

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/world-will-survive-covid-19-only-if-swift-action-taken-to-help-africa-un-humanitarian-says-1.5509728>

## **CBC Radio: The Current**

Virus could wreak the kind of havoc last seen during HIV/AIDS pandemic: Stephen Lewis

Diplomat and humanitarian Stephen Lewis says the COVID-19 pandemic could be as devastating to the African continent as HIV/AIDS was, unless more is done to stop the virus' spread.

Lewis told The Current's host Matt Galloway that the fragility of African health systems, limited numbers of medical professionals and healthcare workers and a lack of adequate equipment all make the region particularly vulnerable.

"... if the coronavirus hits in a brutal and ferocious way, as is predicted by some, then we will experience again the kind of devastation that we saw during the height of the AIDS pandemic in the late 90s and early 2000s. And it is just a nightmare," he said.

In addition, techniques which are key to fighting the virus — such as hand-washing and social distancing — are not achievable in all countries. Lewis pointed out that parts of Zimbabwe only have access to water during certain hours of the day. And people living in Africa's biggest slum, Kibera, outside Nairobi, won't be able to maintain physical distance given crowded conditions.

*Submitted by Francis Molaro*

### Programs:

*We are deeply committed to getting the vast majority of our revenue to the community-based organizations with whom we work. Between 2003 and 2020 the Stephen Lewis Foundation disbursed and committed a cumulative \$130.7 million in program spending, including direct support to over 1 800 initiatives with 3 25 community-based organizations in 15 African countries. In our most recent Fiscal Year 2019 -2020, over \$7.9 million was spent in supporting the work of our partners, representing 76% of total expenses for the year. To read more about our work with African partners, please visit:*

<https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/>

Excerpt from the Fall 2020 Grassroots Bulletin

## Manitoba Grandmothers' Regional Liaison Report



Over the year since I took on this role, it has been heartening and inspiring to hear from the other Canadian GRLs especially through these months of isolation and dread.

The determination, creativity and energy of members of other grandmothers' groups is, I can only say, deeply moving. Underlying that

is what we have learned about our African sisters who have demonstrated the same qualities (as we knew they would!), and have focussed on meeting local needs by swiftly pivoting to re-design and re-focus their activities.

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign staff are starting to focus on a 15th anniversary year in 2021. Ideas for ways to connect and celebrate, despite uncertainty, are welcome!

Information about the Stephen Lewis Foundation's current activities and conditions, and the African projects' responses to the new challenges, can be found in the latest edition of Grassroots, available at: <https://bit.ly/Grassroots-Fall-2020>

Our other Manitoba groups are experiencing our circumstances just as are those across the country. The very small groups, like Treherne and Selkirk, have not been able to keep up their activities as their members are focussed on staying safe and managing family needs. The Portage la Prairie group has been quiet, and I must assume the same is true of them.

Other groups in the country have continued to sell crafts, art, and other merchandise online or through local events depending on local COVID restrictions. Finally, a new phenomenon for grandmothers' groups - online (live-streamed or on-demand) fundraising events including book clubs, entertainment, and learning events are beginning to grow. Online events can have a global reach with great potential for more awareness as well as fundraising. You will hear more about these over time as GRLs work with SLF to put together protocols for promoting these.

Right now, two Ontario-based events are upcoming:

One is a presentation on the life and works of Bob Dylan, available between Nov. 16 and Dec. 6. It is free although donations to SLF are encouraged. Register and get more information at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/dr-mike-daley-presents-the-life-and-music-of-bob-dylan-tickets-124337961189>

Another is a Zoom cooking lesson with instructions on making four North African dishes; registration is \$25. Get more information and purchase a ticket at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cook-with-carolyn-tickets-125347508773>

*Submitted by Sharon Twilley*



### Holiday Tribute Cards

This holiday season, send e-cards or printed cards to honour your friends, family and colleagues and support the grassroots organizations working so hard to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.

To request that cards be sent to your address for you to mail yourself, please contact us at 1-888-203-9990, ext 0.

**Printed cards will be sent within two business days using standard Canada Post service, the SLF cannot guarantee arrival times.**

**\* Suggested minimum donation of \$10 per card.**

<https://slf.akaraisin.com/Donation/Event/DonationInfo.aspx?seid=23548&mid=49>

## Turning the Tide of AIDS in Africa with Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

From June 2016 to May 2019, I had the opportunity to be part of a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, involved in combating AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. It is named Grands 'n' More Winnipeg, whose aim is mainly to raise awareness and host fundraising events across the city and region of Winnipeg. All funds directly go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

I still remember the rainy afternoon of June 2016, when I met with Bev and Frances, two members of the Awareness Committee, at Stella's Coffee close to my workplace at St-Boniface, in order to be introduced to Grands 'n' More Winnipeg's role, history, activities and perspectives. After that first contact I decided to get involved, being aware that HIV/AIDS remains a big challenge in Africa where some Eastern and Southern countries have prevalence rate close to 20%.

Activities regularly held by the Group, and at which I participated include the following:

- Annual Gatherings: the most memorable one in my opinion is the Regional Fall Gathering of October 2018, at Fairholme Hutterite Colony, near Portage-la-Prairie.
- Monthly Meetings: interesting moments to discuss about current and planned activities at Riverview Community Centre.
- AFTA Sales: challenging yearly events during which arts objects received from residents of Winnipeg were sold to public at cheap price.
- Sales Events: day sales organized in shopping centres and other public places to sell diverse items produced by members of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg or received as donations.
- Awareness Activities, such as exhibits at Folklorama, Grands 'n' More Winnipeg participation at 'Weaving Change' organized by Canadian Museum of Human Rights on December 2017.
- Rant for SFL - March 8, 2018, and Flash Dance, as part of the International World AIDS Day. The list is so long, but I just limit it to those activities listed above.

Since June 2019, I moved to Ottawa, for work reasons, with an international organization that is funding research in developing countries.

I still continue to follow the great efforts Grands 'n' More Winnipeg is making to support the most vulnerable populations affected by AIDS, through the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

My friends of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg, your engagement should be supported and encouraged!

*Submitted by Modou Sall*

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Modou Sall at an Awareness event, 2018

### Membership Dues

Given the strange times we have been going through it is understandable that many have been unable to get out to send in their membership dues. So far, we have only 16 outstanding renewals. When you feel comfortable and safe to do so, please send in your 2020 memberships to:

**Agnes Brydon**

**821 Parkhill Street**

**Winnipeg, MB R2Y 0V4**

Please make cheque payable to

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg.

(Membership fee is \$25.00)

*Submitted by Agnes Brydon*