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# MANITOBA GRAM-A-GRAM



Photo by:  
Alexis MacDonald

## Contacts:

### GRL Cathie Hiller:

[wpggrannies@gmail.com](mailto:wpggrannies@gmail.com)

### Grandmothers Giving

#### Portage la Prairie

Tina Lequier: [tlequier@hotmail.com](mailto:tlequier@hotmail.com)

Kathy Wightman:

[Kathy.wightman@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.wightman@gmail.com)

### Grands on The Red

#### Selkirk

Kay Shewfelt Boyd: [kayshobo@gmail.com](mailto:kayshobo@gmail.com)

### Grannies Go2gether

#### Treherne/Rathwell/Holland

Shirley Tate: [jstate@mymts.net](mailto:jstate@mymts.net)

Sandra Rex: [sandrar@inetlink.ca](mailto:sandrar@inetlink.ca)

### Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

#### Winnipeg

Barb Linklater: [barb111@mymts.net](mailto:barb111@mymts.net)

Donnie Fridfinnson:

[dfridfinnson@gmail.com](mailto:dfridfinnson@gmail.com)

### Sharing with Grandmothers

#### Winnipeg

Diane Ward: [dianeward51@gmail.com](mailto:dianeward51@gmail.com)

AWARENESS  
SOLIDARITY  
FUNDRAISING

## From the Desk of the GRL (Grandmothers *Regional Liaison*)

From the Desk of the GRL:

1. The 2018 Flash Dance Video has been produced and released on Youtube as well as the SLF website. The SLF also posted the video on Facebook. It was viewed by a woman who lives 100 km from Brandon. I have responded to her comment...who knows where it will lead?
2. The GRL Retreat in Toronto will take place Feb. 4-6, 2019. Thelma Hansen of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg has kindly agreed to represent the MB Region. We look forward to the thoughts and ideas to be shared with all of us on her return.
3. On the GRL conference call Dec. 3, 2018, numerous ideas were shared pertaining to fundraising for small groups. These ideas, for our Region to consider, will hopefully be shared in the January Granny Bulletin. Suggestions such as: re-energizing Scrabble by involving senior high schools over a lunch period; working with 10,000 Villages: one day each year 15% of sales are donated to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign - an awareness display is provided with members available to address what we do; receiving left over plants from the area Horticultural Society sale and selling these along with plants nourished by members; and a 'Simply Jazz Evening' - senior high school jazz band alongside a professional group providing music - displays/sales/edibles. These are just some of the thoughts shared.

*Submitted by Cathie Hiller*



# It was an Impressive Day!

Reflections from the Grandmothers' Groups

## Manitoba Gathering Oct 20, 2018



Learning about the holistic work of our community-based partners, and building regional solidarity, too!



Guest Speaker:  
**Mama Pfiiraeli  
Kiwia**  
(Kimara Peers, Tanzania)

Guest Speaker:  
**Idah Mukuka  
Nambeya**  
[Senior Advisor to the  
Grandmothers Campaign]

Photo Credit: Asmita Persaud

Above collage from SFL Facebook

## Bibis n'guzo! Fairholme Colony

On Saturday, October 20, 2018 Fairholme Colony hosted the Manitoba Grandmothers' Groups with over eighty attendees representing seven regions: Treherne, Portage la Prairie, Gimli, Carman, Winnipeg, Selkirk and Glenboro, whose delegates were welcomed with a rousing round of applause.

In her opening comments, Chairwoman Cathie Hiller urged attendees not to neglect filling out the evaluation form in their registration folder, citing two important reasons: one, the planning committee depends on feedback and suggestions to plan the next AGM effectively and two, each completed form is the ticket for a Russian Mint chocolate from Morden's of Winnipeg. Hearty laughter indicated attendees' appreciation for presenting a routine reminder of an unpopular chore with humour.

The day included special guests, Asmita Persaud, Campaign Officer of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and two African grandmothers, Pfiiraeli Kiwia –

affectionately known as Mother Kiwia – of Kimara Peer Educators and Health Promotion Program, Tanzania and Idah Nambeya of SLF, Zambia.

Idah and Mother Kiwia's stories were simultaneously heart breaking and inspiring as they provided vivid examples of African grandmothers rallying to strengthen, sustain and support each other in the struggle to raise their grandchildren.

In the afternoon their audience was school children from Elm River Colony, Newton Siding and Fairholme Colony, a session that was video-taped by a student from Portage Collegiate Institute.

*Submitted by Dora Maendel*



### Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

The Gathering brought together Manitoba Grandmothers who are united in their passion to raise funds for and awareness of the African Grandmothers. It was a full day with the exchange of items, ideas and of course food! The food was delicious thanks to the Fairholme Colony ladies.

For the final segment of the day, Idah, Mama Kiwia and I shared the stage to reflect on the Tanzanian Gathering held in Feb/March of this year. From my perspective, I spoke of the excellent planning and how very successful and smooth the event went. It was planned by African Grandmothers, for African Grandmothers, about African Grandmothers. It was overwhelming at times, listening to the stories and hearing of the injustices suffered. What struck me was how far these women have come. They are not looking for us to solve their problems and right the injustices suffered. They want our continued solidarity and support. This is the essence of the grassroots model of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. These are amazing, resourceful women. They are mobilizing, networking and coming together to share their stories, stories of trauma, yes, but also the success stories, income generating ideas, support to those parenting their grandchildren, and most of all, sharing love, laughter and music.

*Submitted by Thelma Hanson*

### Grands on the Red

Our Grands on the Red in Selkirk is a new group. When I heard about the Manitoba Region Fall Gathering at the Fairholme Colony, I knew right away this would be a good opportunity to meet other Grands as well as brainstorming together.

Well I was right! We were all well-fed and cared-for by the women at Fairholme Colony! Listening to Mama Kiwia and Idah speak about their experiences and the hurdles they've overcome was emotional and motivating. Asmita brought us up to date on the workings of the SLF, and the Breakout Session was very interesting, a glimpse into the experiences of the other groups, again highly-motivating!

I've left with new energy for our purpose and even greater respect for the Grandmothers of Africa!

*Submitted by Teresa Leathwood*

### GranniesGo2gether

Overall, it was a great day from start to finish. The warm hospitality from the colony (led by Anna), meeting the passionate African grandmothers, the presence of our friendly Asmita from SLF, the mingling and discussions with other groups created a day of encouragement and hope.

The market place went over well and added to the day. But a lasting visual that we took home from the day was to witness a warm hug between the African grandmothers and the hosts from Fairholme Colony. Along with the thoughtful grace offered by Dora before breaking bread together, it was truly heartwarming and sums up the spirit of the SLF.

*Submitted by Shirley Tate*



Photos from Dropbox sent by Asmita

<http://bit.ly/MBGathering2018>

## Flash Dance

On the 8th of November Grands 'n' More Winnipeg, with some of their friends and relatives, showed up at the Portage Place Mall to do a Flash Mob Dance in sync with Grandmothers across Canada. It was unfortunate the weather forecast was for snow and icy streets. This made for a lower turnout than expected. However, we did do a pretty good job of it. It was a grand time altogether; our ladies spread a bit of awareness and sold even more merchandise at our booth that day.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanuka and Joyous Kwanzaa. We wish you many Blessings over this season.

*Submitted by Barbara Linklater  
Grands 'n' More Winnipeg*



## Congratulations!

Anna Phillips Cyr will turn 90 years old on December 26, 2018. Anna is our oldest member in the Manitoba Region. Her support, active involvement, and humour endear her to all of us. Still line-dancing on a weekly basis, may Anna be blessed with many more birthday celebrations.

## Remembering:

It is with sadness that we express our sympathy to Joan Hutlet due to the passing of her husband Norbert on October 4, 2018. May his memory be a blessing to family and friends.

## AN UNEXPECTED DELIGHT:

At the Fall Gathering, along with the children who gathered to talk with Idah and Mama Kiwia in the afternoon, came cookies for everyone's enjoyment, provided by one of the women from the neighbouring colony. The recipe was requested by one of the members, and we thought you might enjoy receiving it as well. In keeping with the upcoming festive season during which additional baking is the usual course of action, perhaps this offering will find its way onto your table.

*Submitted by Cathie Hiller*

### Cookie Crunchies

Recipe Submitted by Shirley C

3½ cups flour

1 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

Cream together

1 cup margarine

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup white sugar

2 eggs



Add

1 cup oil

1 tsp vanilla

Add dry ingredients

1 cup oatmeal

1 cup Rice Krispies

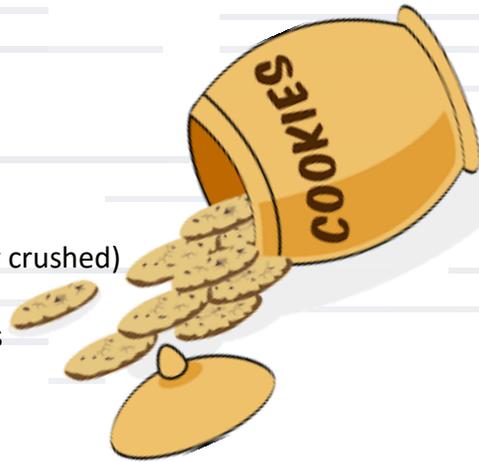
1 cup Corn Flakes (slightly crushed)

½ cup coconut

½ cup Pecans or Almonds

Walnuts will do

Bake at 325 12 to 15 min



*Throughout this festive holiday  
season and always,  
Cherish family,  
Cherish friends.*

