



# Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

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

## NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Volume 10, Issue 2

\*\*\*\*\*

**Contacts:**

**Donnie Fridfinnson**

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

**Fran Gropp**

[frang.204@gmail.com](mailto:frang.204@gmail.com)

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

[Webpage](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

**Events:**

**Member Meeting**

Thurs. March 5 7 pm  
Riverview Community Centre  
90 Ashland Ave.

**Boston Pizza Night**

March 11 (tentative date)  
1630 Kenaston Blvd.

**Comedy Night**

May 8  
Charleswood United Church  
4820 Roblin Blvd.

**AFTA 6**

September 13  
St. Vital Shopping Centre



### News from the Co-Chairs

The other day, even though the temperature was in the negative 20s, there was heat in our wonderful February sun. This means spring is right around the corner and Grands 'n' More Winnipeg members will be busy finalizing plans for Boston Pizza and Comedy Night. Remember to bring a gift item to the March Member Meeting for the Comedy Night Rainbow auction if you can. And if you've sold all of your tickets for this event, Barb Fletcher will have more for you! AFTA raffle tickets will also be available. Thank you to all our members who have been wonderful about signing up for the many volunteer positions required to make these fundraising events successful.

As well, a big thank you to Jacky Molyneux for offering to step into the Secretary position

I was inspired by Frances and Kim's February Awareness presentation to look up the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Frances and Kim will continue our review of a few of these 17 goals and lead us in discovering how they link to the work of SLF funded community groups. You can read more about these goals here:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>.

*Submitted by Donnie Fridfinnson, Co-chair*



Grandmother solidarity action  
Photo by: Phedisang

# AWARENESS

Awareness of community-based projects that support grandmothers and youth to overcome difficulties they face.

During the February and March Member Meetings we will reflect on some initiatives funded in part by the Stephen Lewis Foundation:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300> )

<https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/what-we-do/where-we-work>

The SLF lists the 15 countries; if we click on the country, the names of projects appear.

## February Member Meeting: Goals 1, 2,3

United Nations Goals	Setbacks to overcome for grandmothers
1. End Poverty in all its forms, everywhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost her adult children to AIDS; Takes charge of children, in some countries WITHOUT government financial support</li> <li>• Widowed or divorced: Sometimes her property taken away. Fewer sources of livelihood</li> <li>• “Invisible” older women; in some countries she is denied pension</li> </ul>
2. End Hunger, Achieve Food Security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has to feed children and youth</li> <li>• Has no or very little income to buy food</li> <li>• Has little voice in community’s economic development</li> </ul>
3. Ensure Healthy Lives and Well-Being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had children before her mind and body are ready: End Child Marriage!</li> <li>• Had limited access to Maternal and Child Health</li> <li>• Sometimes has faced rape and its aftermath</li> <li>• Exposed to HIV, often from husband</li> <li>• Lost adult children to AIDS</li> <li>• Limited access to health care in older age</li> </ul>

A few examples of community-based organizations funded in part by Stephen Lewis Foundation.....

- **Ethiopia:** Destitute Elders’ Welfare & Development Association
  - Kulich Youth Reproductive Health
- **Uganda:** Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment
  - Kitovu Mobile Health Care
  - Nsambya Hospital Home Care Department
- **Kenya:** Community Asset Building and Development Action
  - Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya
  - Young Women Campaign Against AIDS
- **Zambia:** Community Based TB/HIV/AIDS Organization
- **Mozambique:** Kukumbi – Organization for Rural Development



Grandmothers Gathering  
Photo by Kristina Laukkanen

### March Member Meeting Goals 4,5,6

<i>United Nations Goals</i>	<i>Setbacks to overcome for grandmothers</i>
4. <i>Ensure inclusive and quality education and promote life-long learning.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Worked as a child, often with loss of schooling</i></li> <li>• <i>Ended her formal education early - if she ever started</i></li> <li>• <i>Often, she cannot read.....read medications, wills, other documents</i></li> </ul>
5. <i>Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Devalued at birth because she is a girl</i></li> <li>• <i>Exposed to rape, eg. while walking on her way to school from village</i></li> <li>• <i>No control over family planning</i></li> <li>• <i>Exposed to domestic violence</i></li> <li>• <i>Exposed to rape, especially in conflict areas</i></li> </ul>
6. <i>Ensure availability of water and sanitation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Carrying water, sometimes from far</i></li> <li>• <i>Sometimes has no access to clean water</i></li> <li>• <i>Missed school during menstrual cycle because of "bathrooms"</i></li> </ul>

*(Thanks to Jean Altemeyer and Jo-Anne Schick for their assistance with the process.)  
Submitted by Kim Taylor and Frances Molaro*

### GRL Update:

1. Keep an ear to the ground concerning an exciting event the Foundation is working to organize for later this year! No specifics yet, as there are a number of hurdles to overcome, but if it happens it will be a landmark occasion for the grandmothers' movement.

2. I have been discussing timing and possible agenda items for our provincial fall gathering with Ruth-Anne Seburn and when she is back from vacation will have a more detailed phone conversation. Suggested dates are September 26 or October 3. It is hosted by Grands 'n' More Winnipeg this year and we must secure a Winnipeg venue soon. Members who can suggest a comfortable (and of course inexpensive) place to hold a conference with approximately 75-100 attendees should let Donnie, Fran and myself know. Our sister group in Kitchener is looking at similar timing so we will need to ensure SLF speakers could get to both.

3. Youth Championing Youth Film: In January, group chairs received an email with a website link to the Youth Championing Youth film and background information. This distribution was part of a limited release of the film. Groups are encouraged to show

the film in group meetings, at events or to organize special screenings of the film. The film is available for preview screening here:

<https://youtu.be/DWLtBbe6DeU>. It is available to groups on USB on request. On March 1, International Zero Discrimination Day (UNAIDS), the SLF will launch the film more widely. Starting that day, the film will be available for easy viewing and sharing on the SLF Facebook page, and on YouTube as well. More information will be in the February Granny Bulletin.

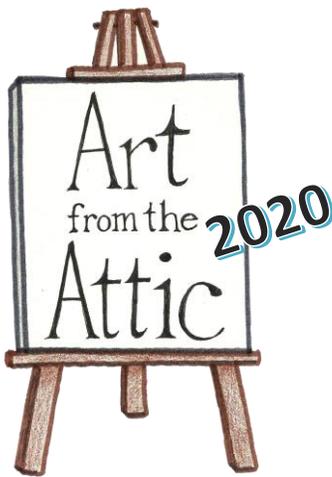
4. I will be attending the annual in-person GRL conference in Toronto April 1-3. I would be happy to hear from members who have ideas to share concerning items for discussion. The agenda is being put together now and is expected to include such topics as engaging youth in the Grandmothers Campaign and group activities, conflict resolution, navigating difficult group dynamics, strategizing and reviewing outcomes & themes from Campaign calls, goal-setting within groups across the Campaign, and resource supports for presentations and public speaking.

*Submitted by Sharon Twilley (twilleys@gmail.com)*

## FUND RAISING

### AFTA 2020 Update

Planning proceeds for Art from the Attic 2020. Feel FREE to 'jump on the wagon' to volunteer. For newer members, this is a great way to get involved – for those long-term members, you know what an important event this is for us for both fundraising and awareness of the African grandmothers' challenges and resiliency. BIG thanks to Deb Radi for overseeing the AFTA Raffle process, to Donnie Fridfinnson for acquiring our First and Second Raffle Prizes; to Sue Hudson for giving us another amazing quilt as the Third Prize. Books of tickets will be available at the March Member meeting. We have lots of tickets to sell, so if you can't be at the March meeting, please email [grandsnmore@gmail.com](mailto:grandsnmore@gmail.com) and Deb will arrange to get ticket books to you. Art collection will begin in early-June – PLEASE tell anyone you know who is moving or downsizing to keep us in mind for their excess art. Feel free to forward/share this message:



### Are you moving? Downsizing?

You love the artwork on your walls but no longer have room for it all?

The Grands 'n' More Winnipeg Art From the Attic Sale is the perfect solution. Your new or gently used art can find new homes, new life.

Volunteers will be collecting donations of art in Spring 2020.

Check [www.grandsnmore.com](http://www.grandsnmore.com) for details.

**Save the Date!**

Art from the Attic 2020  
Sunday, **September 13, 2020**

Spots for dropping-off art include Pockit Self Storage (on Burrows, by Keewatin), End of the Roll (on Century, close to Polo Park), and St. Vital Centre (days and times to be determined). Perhaps you would be the 'Designated Driver' for Pockit Self Storage or End of the Roll? Contact [jeanaltemeyer@shaw.ca](mailto:jeanaltemeyer@shaw.ca) or Donnie at [dfridfinnson@gmail.com](mailto:dfridfinnson@gmail.com) to fill that – or other – AFTA jobs.

*Submitted by Jean Altemeyer and Donnie Fridfinnson*

### Fundraising Facts:

Mark your calendars for the Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> Comedy Night. We have four wonderful women comedians who will donate their talent to keep you laughing for a good cause. The venue is Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd. at Dieppe Road. Tickets are \$20.00 and you can contact Barb Fletcher 204-257-7511. Tickets will be available at each member meeting as well. They make great gifts for Mother's Day. It is an event for the whole family. There will be Grands 'n' More Winnipeg sales, Rainbow Auction, 50/50, AFTA Raffle tickets. Doors open at 6:30 and the show starts at 7:30. Rush seating.



We are looking for donations for our Rainbow Auction. Any new items are gratefully appreciated. We are hoping to have a wine basket, so that is something we can use as well.

*Submitted by Pat van Herksen and Nina Logan*

## Copy of a letter from Stephen Lewis – February 2020

My colleagues at the Foundation remind me, time and time again, that I haven't written a new thank you letter to our supporters in years. They harass me wilfully. They grow increasingly impatient. The problem is they're right, because your financial support at this moment means more than ever before.

So, this constitutes my penance.

Cutbacks in global health, particularly women's health, are doing severe damage to families and communities across Africa where the AIDS pandemic is rooted. In our own limited fashion, we have to try to compensate for the turmoil this has caused.

But in fact, it's much more than that.

The 2019 report from UNAIDS was a sobering recognition that HIV is far from over. Incredibly enough, 160,000 children were infected last year, the majority of them during the birthing process. We thought that the availability of drugs for the mother would reduce the number nearly to zero ... we were wrong.

Further shocking, in the grand scheme of things, was the information that there are 6,200 new infections every week amongst young women and girls. I repeat: every week. The vulnerability of women has been the most brutal truth of HIV since the pandemic emerged over thirty years ago. Misogyny lies at the heart of it, and somehow, we've never been able to fashion programs of prevention that would put an end to the carnage.

But the worst revelation in the UNAIDS report, by far, was the decline in international funding. Between 2017 and 2018, money for care, prevention and treatment of HIV declined by a billion dollars. The toll it takes at the grassroots is heartbreaking. Nor are there signs of a turnaround. The primary source of global dollars is the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. For the period 2021 to 2023 inclusive, it has asked the donors for at least 14 billion dollars. It sounds like a lot and it is, but the Fund itself says that the total required is \$32 billion, so there's a shortfall of \$18 billion! The Fund refuses to ask for what is needed to bring an end to the pandemic.

So, where does that leave us? It leaves us with NGOs like the Stephen Lewis Foundation to fill some part of the gap, however miniscule. It leaves us with the most profound feelings of gratitude for the contribution you've made. There are no words....

Several years ago, UNAIDS made a dreadful mistake. They fashioned a public relations program based on the mantra "The End of AIDS". They were certain that this would prompt donors to contribute more. They were wrong. It actually lulled donors into a false sense of complacency. Now the women, men and children of Africa are paying the price.

With your support, you have saved lives, provided hope and helped turn the tide. Please see that as your legacy of social justice, human rights, compassion and decency.

The beauty and strength of the Foundation is that it works entirely with community-based organizations, and the world has come to understand that support for the grassroots will one day lead to an end of the pandemic. But unlike others, we're under no illusion about the battle ahead. With your contribution, we're fighting side by side.

Thank you.

Stephen Lewis, Co-Chair of the Foundation Board