



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:

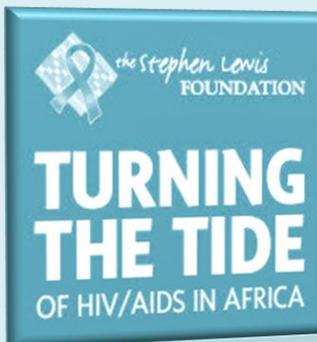
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**All Events are Cancelled
until further notice**

**Tentative Date for Annual Meeting
September 3, 2020**



News from the Co-Chairs

Although our fundraising projects for 2020 have been put on hold our spirits have not and our commitment to supporting the SLF through the Grands 'n' More Winnipeg campaign remains strong. Details on local fundraisers can be found in individual reports from the coordinators of the projects. We encourage all to visit the SLF website.

The Coordinating Committee has met twice via Zoom. It was a bit of fun as we rose to the challenge! Of special note is the decision to postpone the Annual Meeting originally scheduled for June 4, 2020. It is tentatively rescheduled for September 3, 2020, assuming it is safe to meet at that time. There will be an update in late August.

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) sent a link that you may want to share with the school age people in your lives. It has cool online resources for teaching Sustainable Development Goals:

<http://mcic.ca/sustainable-foundations/learn-at-home>.

Most importantly, we want to thank each and every one of the 2019/20 CC members for their contributions during the year. In addition, thanks go to: the Selkirk Grands on the Red for sharing their wonderful placemat design; The Portsmouth, The Wellington, and The Waverley retirement residences for hosting CC meetings until COVID-19 made meeting in person impossible; and to Ali Jalili who reviews the financial books each year on a volunteer basis.

Please feel free to contact us with comments, suggestions, photos or new ideas for fundraisers or newsletter content.

Submitted by Fran Gropp and Donnie Fridfinnson

News Bites

Annual Meeting Postponed Indefinitely

The Annual Meeting, scheduled for June 4, 2020, has been postponed until September 3, 2020, or until it is safe to meet as a group again. We will send out an update in late August. Barb Fletcher will send out detailed financial statements by email to members prior to a confirmed Annual Meeting date. Thank you for your patience.

Coordinating Committee Positions

As this extraordinary year winds down, or perhaps better described as just drifting away, we would like to thank the members of the Coordinating Committee (CC) for contributing their time and energies. As well, we want to thank Geri Lowe again for arranging to have our meetings at The Wellington, The Waverley and The Portsmouth Seniors' Residences. Until COVID-19 isolated us, these facilities went out of their way to accommodate our monthly meetings.

Below is a list of positions and the people currently serving in them. Members of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg who have served in these positions over the years have been successful in setting a foundation that makes it easy to step into any role on CC. We value our members who stay in their roles and provide essential continuity; however, we don't want members to think that accepting a position will be a never-ending commitment. In fact, it is healthy to rotate members through leadership positions and therefore we only ask for a minimum two-year commitment. If you are interested in any of the roles that need filling, please get in touch with Fran, Donnie or the person currently in the role to learn more.

POSITION	MEMBER
Co-Chairs	Fran Gropp (First Year) Donnie Fridfinnson (Second Year – would like to step down)
Secretary	Jacky Molyneaux
Treasurer	Barb Fletcher
Membership Lead	Agnes Brydon
Awareness Co-Leads	Frances Molaro (Vacant – Kim Taylor has stepped down)
Fundraising Co-Leads	Nina Logan Pat Van Herksen
Communications	Heather Colquhoun – Gmail and Facebook (would welcome someone else taking on Facebook) Website – Donnie Fridfinnson (anyone else want to take this on?) Newsletter – Evelyn MacLellan

Virtual Fundraising

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg raised \$350 in April from members who used the Grands 'n' More website to donate directly to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Thank you SO much! As the Corona virus starts to work its way across Africa, our African grandmothers will be greatly affected. If you can, consider this online method of donating. And tell your friends too. Just go to grandsnmore.com and click donate. You will receive an immediate tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more.

Submitted by Donnie Fridfinnson

AFTA 2020 Cancelled

As you have no doubt heard or assumed, Art From the Attic (AFTA) 2020 has been cancelled. Given our demographic's vulnerability, the uncertain economy, and the public health orders re: distancing and sanitizing, our decision was pretty easy to make. We have notified St. Vital Centre and they replied that they completely respected our decision and that they have us in mind for next year's planning. It is too early for them to determine a new date for 2021. We will be encouraging potential donors to hold onto their art until next year, but if someone calls who just cannot wait, and they have GOOD QUALITY art, we have determined that we will accept it. If we outgrow space in our members' homes, Pockit Self Storage has indicated they are willing to give us a locker for the year.

AFTA Raffle

We are hoping to postpone the AFTA raffle draw until September, 2021. To postpone, we need permission from LGCA (Liquor, Gaming & Cannabis Authority of Manitoba). We are working on establishing a new draw date/time/location before making this application to LGCA. Once we have determined the new draw date we will have to contact people who have bought raffle tickets to let them know. If you can volunteer some time to do this please let Jean Altemeyer (jeanaltemeyer@shaw.ca) or Donnie Fridfinnson (dfridfinnson@gmail.com) know.

Submitted by Donnie Fridfinnson



Jean Altemeyer contacted the Assiniboine Credit Union to pass on the sad news of having come to the decision of cancelling AFTA 2020. The response was so touching, we wanted to share it with all members.

Good morning Jean,

My family, friends, colleagues and I are well, thank you, I hope the same can be said for you and yours. This truly is a challenging and unprecedented time.

That must have been a very difficult decision. I understand that Art from the Attic was a very successful event, and it must be very disappointing to have to postpone it until next year, but It sounds like this decision was made with the best interests of the community in mind.

Assiniboine Credit Union, under the direction of our President and CEO Kevin Sitka, would like to continue our support for Grands 'n' More. We would rather the funds be used to provide support for your organization and the grandmothers and orphans of sub-Saharan Africa that you serve. I understand that there are usually other fundraisers, such as the sale of knitted scarves and bags, so please use the funds toward another project. These women and children must be in greater need now than ever and ACU would therefore like to donate the value of the sponsorship toward this cause.

Kalyn Maskiw-Connelly MA

Grants and Sponsorship Program Coordinator

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The GRLs met by Zoom on May 4.

The meeting began with an introduction to Meg French, the new Executive Director. Meg provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the community-based organizations (CBOs) supported by SLF. On that topic, she reported that the biggest impact so far is not the direct result of infection but arises from the lockdown restrictions on movement and access to services. The CBOs are adapting in various creative ways to the immediate threats to nutrition and drug supplies, to school closures, loss of counselling, peer support programs and limited access to clean water, soap and sanitizers.

SLF had been looking at funding some new CBOs but is now focussing on being flexible about the way funding is used by existing organizations so that they can adapt their activities to meet the new needs in creative ways.

However, the loss of revenue to SLF, as fundraising activity in Canada at the local level has fallen back drastically, has been significant. The COVID-19 direct appeal launched in March has had some success in bringing in direct donations, but new revenue sources must be found to continue the work. As an international development organization, the Foundation is not eligible for many of the government support programs for charities put in place by Canadian governments at various levels. Staff are examining all opportunities.

From GRL calls and a campaign call, I can report that grandmothers' groups across Canada are trying in a number of ways to continue fundraising. Interest and participation in the *virtual Stride to Turn the Tide* initiative has increased. On a recent Zoom conference there were 32 groups represented and over 50 participants. A BC group is already halfway to its \$30,000 goal. *Carrying on previously planned events and activities with adaptations*, others have met their fundraising goals in surprising new ways. Plant sales were held in the driveways of several members, over several days, instead of one location for a weekend, and succeeded wildly despite physical distancing. Arrangements were made to sell crafts online with curbside pickup/drop off. Some groups made masks and donated them to various settings with a request to consider donations to SLF from those who used them. Those with tickets for events, or other known past donors, have been asked to make donations instead of attending events and have often been happy to do so.

But some groups have gone quiet.

I have available on request a description of virtual Stride to Turn the Tide, and a handy step by step guide to registering to participate. Request by email at twilleys@gmail.com.

Activities a participant may choose as their goal include the usual walking/ jogging/cycling and others like yard work, cleaning a closet, etc. The goal need not be onerous- one team member from BC set her goal as one push-up, which she promoted in a humorous way to great success. Sponsors who donate \$20 or more receive a tax receipt from SLF, instantly if done online. There is a general Grandmothers Campaign team, or you may register as an individual. Or, donate to my individual Stride account (Sharon Twilley) by going to this page and searching for me under "Individual"

<https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/stridetoturnthetide/pledge/sponsor/start>

Submitted by Sharon Twilley twilleys@gmail.com 204-257-4886

FUNDRAISING ANNUAL REPORT June 2019 – May 2020

Due to the pandemic, unfortunately our upcoming two big fundraisers, AFTA and the Comedy Night, have had to be postponed. For those who have bought or sold Comedy Night tickets, please advise your friends and family to hold on to them for the show which will happen at a later date.

In her Treasurer's report, Barb will provide all the facts and figures of our fundraising up to this date, so instead we wanted to recognize those who went above and beyond Grands 'n' More Winnipeg Fundraising this year. Huge appreciation and thanks to the following:

- All those who organized and staffed the various sales of our Merchandise and those who bought the goods.
- Origami Owl for the Laurel Garvie Memorial Fundraiser.
- Vera and Horst Rosolowich for the Christmas Shortbread sales. Even when ill, Horst insisted that they continue the tradition. We send our condolences to Vera and her family.
- Donnie, who made it easy to donate to SLF on line at our [grandsnmore](#) website.
- Sharon who picked up donated material and thread from our members for the sewers.
- The Sewers who used the material to make caps for hospital staff.
- The AFTA committee who have been working so hard in preparation for the AFTA sale, now postponed to 2021. Hang on to your art, we will need it next year.
- The lovely lady comedians volunteering for the Comedy Night who have graciously consented to perform at a later date and The Comedy Night Committee who have worked on this fundraiser.
- The Coordinating Committee (CC) who have continued to meet (through Zoom) to keep us informed of what's happening with Grands 'n' More Winnipeg and SLF.
- Our Grandmother Regional Liaison, Sharon, who keeps us up to date on all the Grandmothers to Grandmothers groups.
- Jacky who has taken excellent CC meeting notes and sent them to the CC members. Jacky also donated some gorgeous necklaces she created for our Comedy Night Rainbow Auction.
- Donnie and Fran who continue to communicate with members every month.
- Evelyn who creates our fantastic newsletter and did the Comedy Night poster.
- Heather who made the Comedy Night tickets. Barb who distributed them.
- Our treasurer, Barb, who does a wonderful job with the books.
- Everyone who has already donated something for our Comedy Night Rainbow Auction. As you clean out your cupboards and closets, finding new things you do not need, keep those treasures safe as we will need them for the rescheduled event.
- Agnes for being our Membership Chair and collecting our membership fees to keep us afloat.
- Everyone who continues to support Grands 'n' More Winnipeg for our African sisters.

Submitted by Pat Van Herksen and Nina Logan

It takes a village to raise a child.

African Proverb



Photo by: Phedisang

AWARENESS ANNUAL REPORT June 2019 – May 2020

For our own Awareness of the situation in sub-Saharan Africa we reflected on the gaps between Grandmothers' lives and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, 1-5. (No Poverty, No Hunger, Health and Well-Being and Gender Equality). Thanks to all participants at Member Meetings and newsletter followers. Thanks also to the occasional groups we addressed and the displays/fairs we attended.



To become Aware of how many Grandmothers' Campaign groups exist, we matched the names of Canadian and a few international Grandmothers' groups with their home cities.

A special thanks to Kim Taylor for her time and energy over the year.

Submitted by Frances Molaro

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT June 2019 – May 2020

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg members have completed another successful year of fundraising for the Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Total monies sent to the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) in 2019-2020:

From Grands 'n' More Winnipeg fundraising	42,444.44
From Grands 'n' More Winnipeg previous year's surplus	1,000.00
Cheques made payable to Stephen Lewis Foundation	<u>1,595.00</u>
	45,039.44

As is our usual practice, detailed financial statements will be sent to members prior to the Annual Meeting (when it is deemed safe to meet as a group again).

Submitted by Barb Fletcher, Treasurer



MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT June 2019 – May 2020

Number of members:

2019-2020 year - 97 paid memberships

Membership fees:

April 1, 2020 - \$25.00 - 22 received to date (22 x \$25.00 = \$550.00)

Donation:

\$100.00

Fees have been collected and given to Treasurer, Barbara Fletcher.

T-Shirts on Hand:

- 1 Small
- 0 Medium
- 9 Large
- 11 X-Large

No. of Members present at meetings:

April 2019 Unknown

May 2019 Unknown

June 2019 Unknown

July 2019 No Meeting

August 2019 No Meeting

September 2019 - 24 present with 2 visitors

October 2019 - 23 present

November 2019 - 28 present

December 2019 - No count as I was not able to attend

February 2020 - 23 Present & 1 guest

March 2020 - 21 present

Submitted by Agnes Brydon



The strain of COVID-19 on under-resourced healthcare and support systems threatens to undermine decades of progress made in turning the tide of HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. With expertise gained from their response to the AIDS pandemic, our grassroots partners, with limited resources, are already adapting and innovating to meet the challenge of two pandemics, COVID-19 and AIDS.

*In Uganda, **Reach One Touch One Ministries** is working to ensure that every grandmother-headed household they support has access to soap and clean water for handwashing. “We must not be found wanting at a time like this when the vulnerable need us most. Let’s rise up and do whatever it takes to keep our grannies and children protected from this coronavirus through provision of water for hand washing.”*

(Quotes from April 2020 Granny Bulletin)

