



# Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

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

## NEWSLETTER

Sept. 2020

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

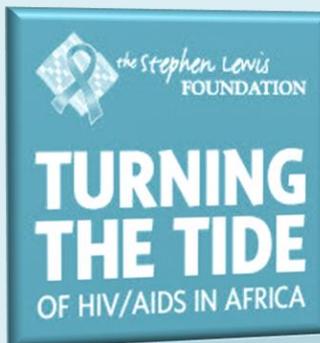
[Webpage](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

**Events:**

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



### News from the Co-Chairs

September is usually a month of beginnings and it is, albeit with Covid-19 accommodations. Grands 'n' More Winnipeg is in a bit of a pause — a temporary slowdown to our typically busy autumn. But this pause is not a hibernation! AFTA and Comedy Night are still happening in 2021.

It is important to recognize that right now is also an opportunity for members to consider your passions and to step up to lead an activity in the coming months. As you will notice from the projects other Grandmother groups are doing, many are small endeavours involving just a few members (with friends) to implement them. And look what Jean has done with her plants!

So here we are, on the brink of a new season. Let's get going!

*Submitted by Fran Gropp, Co-chair*



Photo by Alexis MacDonald

# FUND RAISING

## Fund Raising Report

Your Fundraising Co-chairs have not been idle during this pandemic. We are still holding on to the items which have already been donated as prizes for our Rainbow Auction at the Comedy Night. The comedians are still willing to perform at a time when it is safe to do so. We have the venue standing by when we want to go ahead with the event. So, as you are sorting through your drawers and closets this winter, please keep us in mind. Any new items you wish to donate for our future event will be most appreciated. Just hold onto them until it is safe to proceed. The already donated wine will just continue to age.

Several Grands 'n' More Winnipeg members raised \$1420. for SLF with their on-line pledge efforts for a virtual 'Stride to Turn the Tide'. Many friends and family were happy to donate the money sent by the provincial and federal governments during the initial pandemic responses.

Jean was selling plants at a farmers' market and collecting new quilts from Sue Hudson for our future events.

Other news concerns our merchandise. At the Co-ordinating committee meeting in late August, we decided to try and put our merchandise on-line for selling. Sharon has offered to take photos, Donnie is looking into the logistics of payments and Nina will now house all our current merchandise. Thanks to Carol Hibbert and Heather Colquhoun who have been doing such a great job storing and selling out of their homes for years now.

We are looking forward to the day when we can 'get back to normal' in our lives and back to supporting the grandmothers and their families in Sub-saharan Africa.

*Submitted by Nina Logan and Pat van Herksen*

## Houseplant Sale

### Lord Roberts Community Centre on Sept. 16

Some members will recall that our recent September Grands 'n' More Winnipeg meetings have included a houseplant sale, from cuttings taken in the spring, and growing outside all summer.

As we didn't meet this September, I searched for alternative outlets, and Fran suggested I contact the Fireweed Food Co-op, which runs the Farmers' Market at Lord Roberts. It was a great suggestion! They even gave us a free table and canopy, as we are a non-profit group.

About 30 – 35 plants, mostly Spider Plants, were on offer with a bit of info about how to care for each plant. As well, shoppers could take a Grands 'n' More Winnipeg pamphlet, a 'Thank You' for supporting our work handout (with our website, and the Grandmothers Campaign website), and/or an SLF Donation Slip.

The weather was cool, but the reception was welcoming. All the plants were sold by about 5:45, and another vendor was keen to expand his display onto our table, so I was able to leave early, while the sun was still shining. Best of all \$190. will be on the way to the SLF.

Thank you, Heather, for putting this on our Facebook page, and thanks to the member who stopped by and bought about 8 plants!

*Submitted by Jean Altemeyer*



Photo by  
Kristina Laukkanen

## AFTA Cards for Sale

You may recall that our very creative Val Kellberg has repurposed some of the unusable or damaged AFTA art donations into lovely greeting cards.

I have a good selection on hand, if you would like to arrange a time to come look at them. We could meet outside as long as the weather permits. [jeanaltemeyer@shaw.ca](mailto:jeanaltemeyer@shaw.ca) or 284-3434.

Prices range from \$1.00 - \$4.00. All proceeds will go to help cover AFTA 2021 expenses.

REMEMBER – If you have art on hand which might be of use for Val to make more cards, please contact her

– [vkellberg@mymts.net](mailto:vkellberg@mymts.net)

*Submitted by Jean Altemeyer*

## GRL Report

Carrying on during the pandemic:

1. Fall is upon us, and the dates come and go when Grands 'n' More Winnipeg members and other volunteers would have been doing final preparation for AFTA, gearing up for comedy night, and finding ourselves at a sale venue or two for merchandise. It is heartening to see that other groups in Canada have found ways to continue raising funds for SLF.

### ***This is a quick summary of some of the events and ongoing work across Canada:***

- Abbotsford Gogos aim to raise \$45,000 with their 4<sup>th</sup> Solidarity Cycle <https://solidaritycycle.weebly.com/>, and an Ottawa group held a similar event;
- Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Regina are holding their 2020 Art From the Attic event on Facebook, through the month of September, selling a select group of pieces with arrangements for curb side viewing and online payment including e-transfers (check their Facebook page for posts);
- Grandmothers to Grandmothers have held a garage sale in Fenelon Falls, Ontario;
- Victoria Grandmothers for Africa have cycled over 18,000 km on a virtual tour from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Cape Town, South Africa. Six teams took part each taking one leg. They have their own jerseys!;
- Three smaller BC groups collaborated to do a craft sale outdoors;
- Kingston Grandmothers Connection held a masked and distanced pre-loved clothing sale;
- Smaller groups have held sales of plants, scarves and cards, again following local requirements for masks, distancing, etc.
- Online lessons (generally on Zoom) have had paid subscribers for fitness sessions and cocktail making (not at the same time!);
- SAGA in New Brunswick is taking their fashion show to the big screen by renting a drive-in theatre;

Many of these groups are using Facebook and/or Instagram to post pictures and info. Check them out!

2. Some regions are considering **virtual gatherings** this fall. The Campaign team at SLF will help with planning and content. **Note: the team can assist groups with Zoom meetings by setting one up on their account and offering technical support.**

3. **SLF plans a Zoom conversation with Idah in the fall** - details to follow. This will give us direct news about the pandemic impact in Africa and the steps taken by local SLF-funded groups to carry on programs in accordance with changing priorities.

*Submitted by Sharon Twilley*

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## AWARENESS

Check out the link to SLF and the Granny bulletins from SLF where the resilience of projects in the face of COVID is mentioned.

<https://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org>

*Submitted by Frances Molaro*

**Partners in Pride is a global campaign to champion**



**health and human rights for LGBTIQ communities in Africa. Stigma and discrimination against**

*LGBTIQ communities create barriers to accessing healthcare and social services, with significant impacts on the availability of HIV testing, care, treatment, and support. LGBTIQ organizations in Africa are a lifeline for their communities. The Stephen Lewis Foundation currently supports 15 partner organizations to reach 31,000 people annually through our LGBTIQ Africa Initiative. We are launching Partners in Pride to expand this reach and meet the urgent need to support more LGBTIQ communities across sub-Saharan Africa.*

*Excerpt from Stephen Lewis Foundation/Canada, Press release, May 19, 2020*

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**Donnie Fridfinnson has finished her term as a Co-chair. This position is now vacant. Please consider offering your skills/talents. Contact Fran at [frang.204@gmail.com](mailto:frang.204@gmail.com)**

## MEMBERSHIP

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg has, in effect, temporarily paused. This is not due to lack of commitment to the cause, energy or ideas. The Coordinating Committee has met and is exploring ways to continue with events by transitioning to more online work. But, COVID-19 has presented us with important restrictions and it is necessary to comply.

This is no reason to lose sight of our cause. Grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa are still raising grandchildren orphaned because of AIDS or whose parents are infected with HIV. The funds we raise go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) which is still doing everything it can to support these grandparents and their communities.

You may feel that because Grands 'n' More Winnipeg activities are at a low ebb, it is not important to renew your membership. We urge you to take a broader view. The goals of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg are still in effect and once we pass the road block COVID-19 has given us, we will amp up once again. We still have expenses such as web site registration fees, insurance, bank charges and advances to fund raising projects. AFTA 2021 and the Comedy Night are still on our agenda. Having a good sized membership keeps up our ability to do these things through fees and any surplus would go to the SLF.

Your renewed membership is appreciated more than we can ever say in words. But from the bottom of our hearts — Thank You!

*Submitted by Fran Gropp*

### 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*

### *In Remembrance*

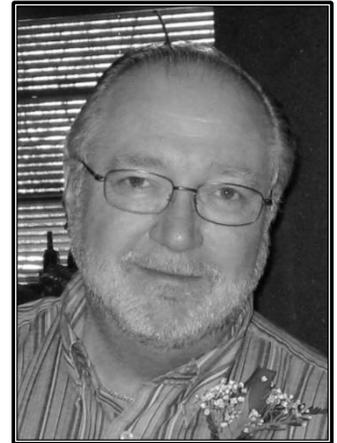
#### *Stanley James Croall*

*October 3, 1946 – September 19, 2020*

Stan was one of those rare people – a 'guy-type', who was an active member of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg. He, along with our other male members, took on key roles. His help was crucial on the Art from the Attic Payment Tables, as Stan introduced the idea of using an electronic payment device 'Square' for AFTA. We had never heard of it as a way to take credit card charges. He told us about it and suggested we use it. He was also huge in AFTA pickups, including being the main pick-up person from End of the Roll for several years, making frequent trips from there to our storage sites, with his car filled with art. When we got a call about the donation of a large number of pieces, Stan was the first driver we called. As well, he was our Membership Coordinator, and developed complex and helpful templates for our Member Lists. He was calm, patient, thoughtful, and committed to the work of the SLF.

He has lost his battle with cancer; now his struggles are ended. We will miss him.

*Submitted by Jean Altemeyer*



Co-ordinating committee socially distancing at a meeting at the end of August. Three members chose to "zoom" in rather than attend in person.

Photo by Nina Logan

## FANTASTIC TOTAL!!!!

Last week we received a letter from the Stephen Lewis Foundation letting us know that Grands 'n' More Winnipeg members have raised a grand total of \$742,880.86 since our group was started in 2007.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Please read the following letter for information about this year's Virtual Stride to Turn the Tide walk – congratulations to our members for raising \$1,420.00!

*Submitted by Barb Fletcher, Treasurer*



September 16, 2020

Dear Donald, Barbara, and members of Grands'n'More,

Thank you for participating in our Virtual Stride to Turn the Tide! This year was unlike any other, but grandmothers and grandmothers answered the call in a remarkable way. Over the years, Stride has grown into a dynamic and important fundraising activity that spans the Grandmothers Campaign. This year it brought more than 50 grandmothers groups together virtually! We are inspired and deeply touched by your continued support and engagement in this grandmothers movement. Each step that you took in your community was a demonstration of your solidarity with African grandmothers and the meaningful and impactful work of our partners in sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the summer, we had dozens of virtual walks across the country that collectively raised a total of **\$260,000!** This is the most Stride has raised since 2013! This year, your group, **Grands'n'More** raised an impressive Stride total of **\$1,420.00!** This total includes all Stride funds received by **July 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.** If there were multiple grandmothers groups participating in your walk, this amount is not the event total but the funds that were raised by your group members and supporters.

**Grands'n'More** has raised a total of **\$742,880.86** since your group formed. As you know, we remain committed to ensuring that 90 percent of all funds raised go directly to community-based partners in sub-Saharan Africa.

So, as we say time and time again, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much for your vision, commitment, and participation in *Stride to Turn the Tide*. We look forward to striding in solidarity with you in 2021!

With gratitude,



Sarah Dopp  
Manager, Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign



Ruth-Anne Seburn  
2020 Stride Coordinator, Grandmothers  
Campaign Officer