



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.**



News from the Co-Chairs

Connections and Collaborations

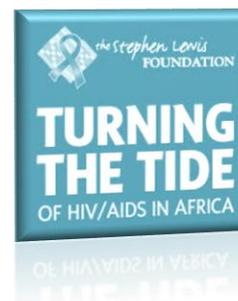
Zooming with the Vancouver Grandmothers group, VanGogos, over their virtual walk across Canada was a lot of fun and led us to the question: would Grands 'n' More Winnipeg members welcome the opportunity for a get together via Zoom in June? Let me take the plunge and suggest Thursday, June 24 at 7:00 pm. If you are interested contact me at frang.204@gmail.com. If the idea is good but the suggested date and time isn't, let me know and the karma might be right for finding an alternative that works for more of us.

Also - we are prepared to offer tutorials if you are not familiar with Zoom. Other groups have done this with success. Basically, it's a walk through over the phone. We have members willing to help with this so let me know in your email.

The April 15th cross Canada concert was very successful; let's take encouragement from that event - virtual connections can work!

Co-chair: Fran Gropp

Co-chair: vacant



The Beginning, 2006

The story of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg really begins in the spring of 2006 on International Women's Day. I happened to have the radio on that morning and heard Stephen Lewis and his daughter talking about the Stephen Lewis Foundation and their plan to bring grandmothers from sub-Saharan Africa to Toronto at the time of the 16th International AIDS Conference in August. They were inviting Canadian grandmothers to come to Toronto to meet these African women whose lives were so impacted by the AIDS pandemic. I knew little about AIDS and less about Africa but knew that I needed to learn so off to Toronto I went to be part of the first Grandmother Gathering. One other woman from Winnipeg was at the Gathering but we had little time to get to know one another.

Those few days in Toronto are a blur:

- laughter and tears
- stories, listening, learning
- lessons in strength, love, and caring
- knowing that something exciting and important was taking form.



SLF photo

Cont. p3



At the end of the Gathering all the grandmothers walked as one to participate at the closing of the International AIDS Conference and to hear the Canadian grandmothers promise that we would not rest until our African sisters could rest. The Grandmothers Campaign had taken root.

Winnipeg, 2006-2007

The other person who attended the Gathering had formed a group called Go Go Action Winnipeg and the two of us worked together to do a presentation telling friends about our experiences and hopes for a grandmother group in Winnipeg. Various ideas on the way to tell the African grandmothers' stories and to raise money were discussed. Some people were interested in only fundraising while others were interested in a broader base of education and fundraising. Feeling that Winnipeg was a large enough city to have more than one group, those of us who were interested in education, fundraising,

and advocacy decided to form Grands 'n' More Winnipeg.

Submitted by Enid Butler

And so, the Grands 'n' More Winnipeg dream became a reality!

Summer and Fall, 2007

Enid Butler, Linda Watson and I met during the summer of 2007 to craft a structure document for Grands 'n' More Winnipeg. The group would be open to all who were interested in supporting the Stephen Lewis Foundation. A potential logo, letterhead and newsletter format were designed and Grands 'n' More Winnipeg was registered as a group with the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Individuals were approached and an open invitation was given at the September potluck dinner fundraiser to join the group or its executive. An announcement was made to the other grandmother groups in Manitoba of our intention to form a group and an announcement was sent to all on the potluck dinner mailing list informing them of our inaugural meeting. The first executive (Enid Butler, Charlotte Caron, Barb Fletcher, Linda Watson, Debbie Storie, Jean Sorko) met on October 15, 2007 to plan the launch meeting.

October 21, 2007 Launch Meeting

21 individuals met on October 21, 2007 to launch Grands 'n' More Winnipeg. A brainstorming session regarding possible projects was held. It was agreed that the structure document would be evaluated after six months and a more permanent guiding document would be presented at the May 2008 annual general meeting.

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By March 31, 2008 there were 58 members and at December 15, 2008 there were 95 members!

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"We shall not rest until they can rest."

Submitted by Barb Fletcher

Manitoba GRL Report

It was wonderful to see some of our members during the **Zoom Happy Hour with VanGogos** on May 7, people whose faces I have not seen in more than a year in some cases. Not the same as in-person, but really meaningful nonetheless. We made some real connections to Vancouver members too. Fewer than six degrees of separation were needed for those. One member's son lives a few doors down from Fran Gropp. One had been at the original Toronto grandmothers' gathering in 2006 as had Enid Butler, and shared her photos later. One mentioned a close friend of decades duration living here, and later that day as I was tidying up I found an issue of the Free Press dated April 19, tucked in a pile of books. Leafing through it quickly, what did I find but an article about the same friend and a project she was working on here in Winnipeg! I found it online and sent it off to Vancouver.

May 25 at 10 am CDT is the date for a **Zoom conversation with Idah Mukuka Nambeya, Senior Advisor to the Grandmothers' Campaign on the ground in Africa, and Niambi Martin-John, SLF Director of Development**, with updates on the work of the community partners. If you receive this newsletter in time and want to join in, email campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org to receive the Zoom link, ASAP (but anytime up to the start of the meeting). If you are not comfortable on Zoom, the message with the link will also give you a number to join by phone.

During the May GRL meeting we had a **presentation from SLF staff on the current work of the Foundation** with examples from several partners of the 121 partner organizations funded by SLF. Much too much information for a newsletter, but we had a glimpse into the overall areas of work for the Foundation, including:

- children and young people
- grandmothers
- home-based care
- positive living
- ending violence against women and girls
- health and human rights for LGBTIQ communities.

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign currently contributes about 20% of the \$10-11 million raised annually by the SLF. So far, funding to the community partners has continued unabated, despite the impact of the pandemic on fundraising events, as donors have responded in other ways and the Foundation has a reserve policy. There is a lot of eagerness among groups across Canada to find ways to continue despite COVID-related restrictions and risks. The success of the April 15 concert (final figures to come in, but about \$124,000 raised) shows it can be done with collaboration and finding alliances.

Remember to check the *Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign website* <https://grandmotherscampaign.org> for upcoming events you could join, to get ideas for events that could work here, and to visit the marketplace for groups' merchandise including our own!

Submitted by Sharon Twilley (Manitoba Grandmothers Regional Liaison)



AFTA Raffle Update

We are thrilled that the Assiniboine Credit Union has agreed to sponsor AFTA, particularly to help offset the expenses related to the AFTA raffle.

The AFTA draw date of September 26, 2021, isn't really that far off when you consider that June is almost here, and people will be drifting away doing summer stuff. Please encourage your friends and acquaintances to get their raffle tickets while they last!



Online sales are safe and easy and allow people to pay with a credit card. A recent online ticket shopper sent an email saying "Wow very impressed with the technology! Great stuff and so easy to use."

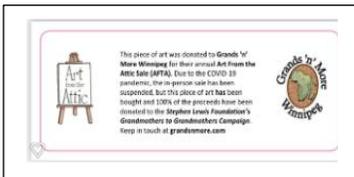
If someone wants to purchase raffle tickets from the online store and pay cash, this can be done by filling out the "Contact Us" form at the bottom of the main page. And the best part of all is that someone else fills in all the ticket stubs for you! To order tickets online go to Shop | Grands 'n' More Winnipeg Online Store (square.site)

Don't forget that if you want tickets to sell yourself, you can contact Deb Radi at dradi@mymts.net.

Submitted by Deb Radi and Donnie Fridfinnson

Art From the Attic (AFTA) Update

We are delighted to share that Pockit Storage (1881 Burrows Ave) has again given us the use of a 10'x10' locker at no charge! This made it possible to centralize all the art that has been accumulating in volunteers' homes over the last year and a half.



We ordered labels that would adhere well to the back of artworks so that the 'provenance' of the pieces would include information that the donated artworks had indeed raised funds for the SLF.

Jean organized an afternoon of art drop-offs on Wednesday, May 6. After a little sorting, organizing and attaching stickers, the 155 pieces were ready to be sold in smaller lots. However, our buyer decided to take it ALL and another \$2,275.40 will be on its way to the SLF! Our agreement with him is that he takes the bad with the good. Since then, we have had a couple more volunteer and donation drop-offs.



155 Pieces ready to go (and they went!)

With this storage site, Grands 'n' More Winnipeg will have much more flexibility in accepting art donations from people who can't wait until we can safely hold an Art From the Attic Sale.

We anticipate we can keep selling art lots using a formula that ensures we receive an amount on a percentage basis similar to past sales. In addition, we are holding back some interesting pieces for the online store and exploring the idea of an online auction.

Submitted by Jean Altemeyer and Donnie Fridfinnson

Attic-art Boxes and AFTA Art Cards

Sometimes we receive art that we cannot sell “as is” whether due to poor framing or other reasons. Val Kellberg has been upcycling such pieces into lovely art cards for several years.



One of the recently dropped off pieces was a poorly framed watercolour from an unknown artist. This piece would likely have ended up at Flavie, but upcycled into a unique art box, it can be sold for \$10. The photos below show the journey from donation to art box.

<p>Taken out of the frame, dampened and pressed</p>	<p>Cut to a square; the small piece will be used inside and on the bottom</p>	<p>A little water prevents the paper from cracking</p>	<p>Starting the origami folding</p>
<p>Some pegs to help shape the box while the paper dries</p>	<p>The artist’s signature is preserved on the inside of the box</p>	<p>A little more of the picture highlighted on the bottom</p>	<p>The finished box</p>

Submitted by Donnie Fridfinnson

Treasurer’s Report *Submitted by Barb Fletcher*

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Even though we haven’t been meeting due to Covid-19 Grands ‘n’ More Winnipeg has contributed **\$8,001.23** to the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) this fiscal year (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021), as follows:

Grands ‘n’ More Winnipeg Projects/Donations	4,611.23
Donation cheques payable to the SLF	120.00
Grands ‘n’ More Winnipeg Fundraising Page with the SLF	450.00
Donations made directly to the SLF “that we hear about”	<u>2,820.00</u>
	\$8,001.23

The total amount contributed to the SLF from our beginning in 2007 to March 31, 2021 is **\$632,195.17**.