



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](#)

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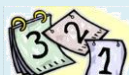
[Online Store](#)

Events

No in-person events scheduled for November.



Articles for the newsletter are due on the 15th of the month.



News from the Co-Chairs

Here Comes Winter!

Survey Results

Responses to our survey are now in! Of note is the nearly even split between continuing with evening meetings and switching to afternoon meetings. Some are no longer driving at night, especially during the winter months. Others are still working during the day. Alternating between evening and afternoon meetings may be the compromise but we are open to all possibilities. A summary of the results will be circulated to members within the week. I'm sure it will prompt questions and creative suggestions. Please feel free to email me at: frang.204@gmail.com.

October 28th Members Meeting

Turnout was small, as expected, but the result was that we could arrange our chairs in a circle so all could easily participate. It was an excellent discussion! Notes on this meeting will be circulated within the week. One outcome was a move by about six of us to hold a small group meeting in our homes. Jean has elaborated on these gatherings elsewhere in this newsletter.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with your comments, concerns and ideas.

-Fran Gropp, Co-chair

- Co-chair, vacant



Small Group Gatherings

As a way to explore some options for reconnecting with one another, and reviving Grands 'n' More Winnipeg, a number of small group daytime gatherings are being held in November. Each group is loosely based on where members live in different parts of the city, in the hope that it will make it easier for them to attend. There are about six in person gatherings, and one by phone, as the number of members able to attend in that area was too small. The big, first snowfall cancelled one meeting – it may go forward by zoom, depending on COVID rules (and Mother Nature's rules).

Besides the chance to meet and renew acquaintances, participants are sharing how – and why – they joined Grands 'n' More Winnipeg, and how they will participate going forward.

If you were unable to attend a gathering, DO feel free to share your answers to the 'why,' 'how' and 'what next' discussion topics. Send your ideas to Fran (our at-the-moment ONLY Co-chair)

frang.204@gmail.com.

-Jean Altemeyer

Art From the Attic (unframed) February Online Auction

Good art is timeless, but frames do not always age well! Sometimes the frame is so dated or inappropriate, the beauty of the art can be lost. In February, the Art From the Attic team is planning to hold another online auction, but showcasing unframed pieces only.

Among the art donations we have received over the last couple of years are several unframed, but beautifully matted pieces of original art or signed, limited edition prints. In addition, we have been given a few exceptional unframed and unmatted prints. Usually, we would have to turn down these kinds of donations or pass the pieces on to another

organization because they were not ready to hang on a wall. But the team thinks the online auction option will be the perfect way to find these art gems a new home and raise money for the grandmothers in Africa.

These two pieces are a little preview of what's coming in February.



-Donnie Fridfinnson and Jean Altemeyer

Grands 'n' More Online Store is (still) Open For Business

Stores and malls are busy again, which we are all glad to see. But things are still not quite back to normal and so we haven't been able to have in-person merchandise sales. But our online store is always open. We have a few new items and lots of the high-quality bags Grands 'n' More Winnipeg is famous for. Check out the poster and shop online at <https://grands-n-more-winnipeg.square.site/>.

Please promote this to your friends, colleagues, neighbours and others. It's a great way to 'buy local' and support the African grandmothers.

-Donnie Fridfinnson

Grandmothers Regional Liaison Report

1. Happenings across the country:

- Some groups are struggling as a result of COVID, which has weakened connections and made the usual way of doing things difficult or impossible. Some of them have decided to fold, and others may follow. There was discussion about ways to support folded group members with connections to other groups.
- Some events that were well-planned and carried out failed to attract much support in their communities. In-person events were particularly vulnerable. Some events have however done spectacularly well - for example Ujaama Grandmas in the Calgary area have raised over \$37,000.
- Events requiring fairly minimal planning or on-the-ground organization, that can be held outdoors, and that have been successful in several communities, include: *document shredder rental* (“bring your shredding and we’ll run it through for a donation to SLF”) and *‘junk from the trunk’* sales, where members or supporters take to an outdoor location a trunkful of their used goods (and maybe some from friends or family who want to contribute) and sell them. All proceeds go to SLF (leftovers go home with seller). Church parking lots or other larger open areas work as venue.

2. Stephen Lewis Foundation Strategic Plan:

A. Reasons

Board and staff at the Foundation have been engaged in a planning process intended to refresh and redefine the values and purposes of the Foundation, and further develop goals and operational plans. If the Foundation is to grow, and be more influential, it was felt that its identity needs to be renewed, especially in a world where fewer and fewer know who Stephen Lewis is, and it needs to build on its successes, particularly the power community-based organizations in Africa have demonstrated.

B. Directions adopted:

Four strategic directions have been adopted and

were described during the Town Hall meeting on October 21.

They are:

- Strengthening and expanding our relationships with community based organizations;
- Cultivating a thriving and engaged supporter base;
- Championing the power of progressive partnerships with community based organizations;
- Nurturing a thoughtful, feminist organizational culture.

C. What happens next:

Much discussion arose when the word “advocacy” was used by Meg French during the Town Hall in reference to the third direction. GRLs reported concern among member groups about this, given the history of threats to charitable status in earlier years. In the notes this action is described as follows: *“We advocate for systemic change in philanthropic and international development sectors through an intersectional feminist, anti-colonial, anti-racism, rights based approach”*. We will certainly hear more about this subject as action plans roll out, and as specific goals and strategies for the various elements of the Foundation’s work, including the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, are still in development. The SLF is providing a detailed Q & A paper this week, responding more fully to questions asked and issues raised at the Town Hall meeting. It will be shared with all groups.

-Sharon Twilley, Grandmothers Regional Liaison

Twilleys@gmail.com



This holiday season, send e-cards or printed cards to honour your friends, family and colleagues and support the grassroots organizations working so hard to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.

To request that cards be sent to your address for you to mail yourself, please contact us at 1-888-203-9990, ext 0.

Printed cards will be sent within two business days using standard Canada Post service.

Holiday Shopping

With holiday shopping looming, check out our online store. We have a number of new, just in time for winter items. Supporting our volunteer sewers and creators is important by purchasing their lovely goods. When you buy from Grands 'n' More Winnipeg you get beautiful gifts at great value, but you also support the SLF Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign. Things were already tough enough for the Grandmothers of Sub-Saharan Africa, but made even more difficult with the covid pandemic. Happy Shopping and Happy Holidays. Many thanks to our genius online store creator Donnie. She is keeping everything up to date and would love to have an order from you!

-Nina Logan, Fundraising Co-chair

**GRANDS 'N' MORE
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SHOP ONLINE

<https://grands-n-more-winnipeg.square.site/>

For your Christmas shopping please check out our online store full of wonderful goods made by local volunteers. Orders can be picked up (contactless pickup option available) or delivered (free for orders over \$100). Cash sales are also an option by using the online contact form. Help us help the Grandmothers through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Please share this with your family and friends