



# Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

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

## NEWSLETTER

Nov., 2025

Volume 15, Issue 9

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

[Webpage](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Online Store](#)

[Instagram \(Grands 'n' More\)](#)

[Instagram \(Art From the Attic\)](#)

**Member Meetings:**

**November 20, 2025**

February 19, 2026

April 16, 2026

June 18, 2026

**All meetings are from 1:30 - 3:30 pm  
in the large hall.**

**Riverview Community Centre  
90 Ashland Ave.**



### SOLIDARITY

*When governments falter, communities rise. Thank you for standing with us — in solidarity and in strength.*

*Across Africa and around the world, communities are showing us what solidarity and strength looks like — rising with compassion, courage and determination in the face of injustice. Solidarity is at the heart of our work to defend rights and protect gains made against AIDS, and is the theme of our latest edition of Grassroots.*

<https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SLF-Grassroots-Fall-2025.pdf>



Joining MusicWorks staff at a school in South Africa, grandmothers and grandmothers like Robin Scobie were invited to participate in a music and dance session with students.

*-Excerpts from Grassroots Fall edition*

**Note: See 'HELP WANTED' notice p. 5**

## Co-Chair Report: November 2025

We are wrapping up a successful fall, and it is time to get back to the regular business of supporting our African Grandmothers through our many Grands 'n' More Winnipeg activities. The very successful AFTA Sale resulted in us sending \$45,653.00 to SLF, so we are inspired to keep up the great work. Every year the sale grows in numbers and popularity. A quick calculation indicates approximately 435 volunteer shifts filled by members, youth and friends of AFTA, many doing multiple shifts and tasks. This does not take into account the significant hours spent by the key organizing committee and task leads. In addition to the funds raised for the grandmothers, the 'friend building' and recognition for Grands 'n' More Winnipeg are significant. Our sincere thank you to Jean, Donnie and each and every volunteer who contributed to AFTA 2025.

A small group of members had the privilege of hearing a presentation by Jane Wathome of Beacons of Hope. Please read the informative report included and submitted by Frances Molaro on the remarkable work Jane is doing to 'lift up' many in Africa.

November will be a busy month for Grands 'n' More Winnipeg. As reported in the GRL report there will be a 'Coffee & Chat' with SLF Partners on Tuesday, November 11 at noon CST. It will be a 1 hour webinar. The link to join by ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88483344937?pwd=tuPJRixMLJcf2U62IQF9YbFAO07A8U.1>

Mark your calendars for the November 20<sup>th</sup> member meeting. Robin Scobie, a member of the Greater Van Gogos, joined the SLF group that travelled to Africa in June of this year. Robin will share her experience via live ZOOM presentation with us. Join us to learn more about the positive impact our contributions to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign is having on our African grandmothers.

Our merchandise team have been working hard for two upcoming craft sales. Please see Jean's merchandise report for details, spread the word,

bring a friend and come out and support us. A great opportunity to do a bit of Christmas Shopping! We look forward to seeing you all on November 20.

*-Patty Griffith & Sharon Twilley, Co-Chairs*

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## Merchandise Committee Report

The Merchandise Committee has two events scheduled for November.

We will be at The South Winnipeg Community Centre on November 17 from 9 - 11 am for a sale. The address is 666 Silverstone Ave. The folks there have been supportive of our cause and requested this sale.

We also have a Pop-Up market on Saturday, November 22 from 10 am - 2 pm at 288 Marion St. at the Options, Pathways and Transitions, Inc. building, which is directly across from the Marion St. Safeway, so there is lots of parking. Please help us promote this sale. A poster is attached on p. 6 and you can send this to friends, family and contacts and post to your social media feeds. Thank you in advance for assisting us.

Also, I recently explored the question of bake sales, which could be added to our pop-ups. It is legal in Winnipeg to have them, as long as we are a charitable organization and do not use 'hazardous' ingredients such as meat, poultry or susceptible dairy. Acceptable items include cakes, cookies, pies, etc. We could also sell jams, jellies and chutneys.

The grandmothers' group in Kingston always made a lot of money from their bake tables. But, to be successful, we would need a fairly large number of members who were willing to bake and also someone to coordinate a bake table. My car is literally jam-packed with items when we have a sale, so a bake sale convenor would be needed. Let me know what you think about the bake table idea at [jean.clipsham@gmail.com](mailto:jean.clipsham@gmail.com).

*-Jean Clipsham*

## Grandmothers Regional Liaison Report: November 2025

**November 11** is the date of a Zoom webinar presentation from the SLF, with two staff members from SLF partner organizations in South Africa (Sophiatown Community Psychological Services) and Zimbabwe (Chiedza). The webinar begins at 12:00 CST. The Zoom link is found in the Co-Chair report.

The **next GRL meeting is on November 12**, so I hope to be able to bring any updates in a brief report at the member meeting on November 20.

November 20 is also the date of the **next Campaign call** (really a Zoom meeting but we are still using the old terminology), which starts at 11:30 am CST. To join in, send an email to:

[campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org](mailto:campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org) and ask to be included. Before the meeting you should receive an email with the Zoom link. Any member is welcome - meet some others from across Canada!

As of this date I am not aware of any announcement by the government of Canada regarding continued support for the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**. The commitment is due this month; we can only hope that our efforts to bring this to the attention of MPs and the efforts of many other individuals and organizations to press for a renewal of funding will be fruitful.

At our last meeting we were introduced to **Brandon Fairley, the new Deputy Director of Philanthropic Partnerships**, who had just started his new job a few weeks earlier. The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and hence the work of our grandmothers and grandmothers groups fall within his responsibilities. If you missed it, check out his introductory article in the October 2025 Granny Bulletin, which is found in "News and Publications" in the members section of the Campaign website. If you have forgotten the password for the members' section or are a new member and no one has given it to you, please get in touch with me to get access.

The **Solidarity Quilt**, which everyone who attended the Gathering in Winnipeg two years ago will have

seen, is open for invitations to be displayed by local groups. This is an opportunity for a group to organize an **awareness event** around this piece of art. The symbolism and history found in the quilt, the story of its creation, and its ongoing powerful message of solidarity and strength has moved many people seeing it for the first time. It has travelled here and there (in libraries, municipal buildings and churches) hosted by various grandmothers groups who had volunteers on hand throughout to explain its significance. If you have not seen the quilt, it is described and pictured here: <https://grandmotherscampaign.org/solidarity-quilt/>

What do you think about a local awareness project centred on the quilt?

-Sharon Twilley [twilleys@gmail.com](mailto:twilleys@gmail.com)

## Tribute Holiday Cards



*Give the gift of solidarity this holiday season. Will you choose gifts that support health and human rights this holiday season? Tribute cards are beautiful, hopeful and impactful gifts. Simply make your tribute donation and select printed cards or e-cards to send to someone special in your life.*

*We can mail cards on your behalf or send you cards to personalize and deliver yourself. Your contributions will support vital community responses to HIV by our grassroots partners in 14 countries across Africa. Tribute cards and e-cards are available year-round and are a meaningful way to celebrate birthdays and other important milestones. Order your holiday cards today at [theslf.org/holidaycards202](https://theslf.org/holidaycards202).*

-Excerpt from SLF website

## Beacon of Hope

On Monday, October 27, 2025, on a rainy afternoon, we were treated to special visitors - Jane Wathome of Beacon of Hope, Kenya and Gacheri Dyck and Myrna Ronald of Focus Africa, Winnipeg.



Jane founded and still leads Beacon of Hope, a community

development project in poor areas of greater Nairobi. Jane began by saying that Kenyan policy was 'behind the times,' slower than other governments in the early 2000s, the years of early and widespread HIV infection in eastern Africa. 'It is the women who are suffering.'

By the year 2003-4 community groups, including faith-based groups like Beacon, began to realize that due to the 'brutality of conflict and lack of health measures', women, many of them older generation women with little or no education and resources, were struggling to feed and house themselves and children. Often the middle generation parent(s) were infected with HIV, many of whom had died or were ill with AIDS.

When Beacon of Hope asked women what assistance would be helpful, they requested help for the children: feeding programs, school fees, training in trades for youth, ways and means to begin small business. Jane and others rented an old warehouse and began a creche for young children, start-ups for kitchen gardens, schooling for youth, microcredit to generate income, helping to open bank accounts.

The 'warehouse' has over the years expanded to include a medical clinic/hospital and a technical training program in the trades for youth. Beacon of Hope graduates are trained not only for technical

competence but also in self-discipline and accountability. The government now regularly consults Beacon and local businesses hire graduates.

Gacheri showed a video of a mother whose daughter, Alice, had attended the Beacon school and received funding for training and apprenticeship in electrical trades. Once successful Alice had a small house built for her mother with a water collection system and solar panels - and onwards to improve lives of others.

Another example: A grandmother born in 1955 has now become a mentor to others. Through Beacon she received school fees for her grandson. She herself was assisted to raise chickens for egg production and onwards to help others.



Gacheri Dyck, Sharon Twilley, Myrna Ronald

Focus Africa of Winnipeg is the main funder of Beacon. For some years the Stephen Lewis Foundation has also contributed.

-Frances Molaro

Photos: Donnie Fridfinnson



Stephen Lewis  
Foundation

### Scarves, scarves and more scarves – days are shorter and colder, so it's time to act.



Due to the skills and generosity of many makers, we have a substantial supply of scarves ready for donation to the Bear Clan. Our supply was boosted when St. Paul's Anglican craftswomen gave us 44 scarves last Sunday. (NOTE: Over the years, this group has given us enough scarves for us to send over \$6,000. to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign). Truly remarkable. As of now, this project has sent about \$24,000. in total to the campaign.

It would be fabulous if the scarves currently occupying my floors could instead be warming folks who are in need AND result in further dollars for the Grandmothers.

Scarves will be at the November Member Meeting but many of you do not get to those gatherings. So you can donate online. I know it's not as much fun as choosing which scarves to give, but it still results in warmth and money. REMEMBER, donations of \$20. or more will receive a tax receipt (you need to indicate your request for one when you order online). <https://grands-n-more-winnipeg.square.site/>

-Jean Altemeyer

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg finds itself in need of volunteers to help maintain our online presence and access. Our online presence is essential to our ongoing operations and success of our sales and events. These duties have been managed by Donnie Fridfinnson, and we want to thank her for her creative and diligent work that has made a significant contribution to the success of AFTA and Grands 'n' More Winnipeg. These positions just require a desire to be creative and an opportunity to learn new skills. Please consider the positions listed below.

## HELP WANTED

Grands 'n' More Winnipeg finds itself in need of volunteers to fill several positions related to our marketing and online presence.

### WEBSITE Maintenance and Updates

- Perform cleanup, post pertinent information such as SLF news, our monthly newsletters, information regarding sales and special events, etc.
- Our domain name is hosted by GoDaddy and website hosted by HostPapa

### Square/Grands 'n' More Winnipeg Online Payment Methods

- Manage and account for 8 readers
- Create sales reports from downloaded data
- Create and manage items for inventory sale tracking
- Manage the site as priorities require



### Social Media

- Creative postings for our 2 Instagram, 1 Facebook and 1 Bluesky accounts

For more information please contact Donnie at 204-396-3345 or [dfridfinnson@gmail.com](mailto:dfridfinnson@gmail.com) or Patty at 204-725-6040 or [pgriff@gmail.com](mailto:pgriff@gmail.com). We will be happy to answer your questions.

**POP UP**

Across from Safeway, in  
the Options, Pathways &  
Transitions Inc. building

# Sale

**November 22**

**288 Marion St.**

**10 am - 2 pm**

**Hand-crafted gift cards and boxes**

**Felted items + Christmas decor**

**Hand-sewn Casserole Carriers**

**Our classic "Mega" bags**

**Jigsaw  Puzzles**

**Large assortment of**

**Vintage Jewelry**

**and Much More!**

