



Grands 'n' More Winnipeg

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

NEWSLETTER

Dec., 2025

Volume 15, Issue 10

Contacts:

Sharon Twilley twilleys@gmail.com

Patty Griffith pgriff140@gmail.com

Links to Grands 'n' More Winnipeg:

[Webpage](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Online Store](#)

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

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

Member Meetings:

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.



Grandmothers to
Grandmothers



We, the members of the Grandmothers to
Grandmothers Campaign, reaffirm the commitment

we made 17 years ago:

We will not rest until they can rest!

Together, we grandmothers of 13 nations on four
continents have experienced the power of collective
action. We have learned from each other's challenges
and from each other's victories.

We will persist. We will succeed. We invite you to join us.

INTERNATIONAL GRANDMOTHERS STATEMENT 2023

December Co-Chair Report

Hard to believe it is time to send Holiday greetings to all our Grands 'n' More Winnipeg friends! As we finish off 2025, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the highlights and successes we enjoyed over the past twelve months.

Although we hosted fewer in-person meetings in 2025, the meetings we did gather for were informative and productive. There were several special guest presentations this year beginning in February when our friend Pamela Obonde provided firsthand insight into the devastating impact the USAID cuts are having on the AIDS programs in Africa. Joy and Dorothy coordinated a great annual meeting that provided many interesting facts about the history of Grands 'n' More Winnipeg since its inception in 2007. Jane Wathome of Beacons of Hope dropped in for a special meeting in October, reminding us that one person can have a massive positive impact on hundreds of people through determination, belief and hard work. In November Lauren Wilson from the Victoria Grands group joined us and shared a very passionate and inspiring recap of her trip to Africa with the Stephen Lewis Foundation group in June of 2025.

2025 presented an opportunity for two awareness presentations this year: one to a United Church Women's Group and one to the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. These presentations help to share information about the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign and help to promote AFTA. Thank you to Donnie, Jean and Sharon.

A strong and vibrant merchandise committee, coordinated by Jean Clipsham, has had an amazing impact on our fundraising efforts. This team has participated in 7 sales this year, not only raising valuable funds but generating awareness about our cause. Donnie hosted several 'wet felting' sessions. In addition to being a wonderful social opportunity, gifted 'felters' were discovered and they have added to our merchandise offerings.

This year, we sent a record \$51,189.00 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation in support of the Grandmothers to Grandmother campaign. AFTA 2025 was the best to date with gross art sales totaling \$52,697.00 (\$45,654.00 after expenses). The remaining funds were raised through our busy merchandise sales team and the remarkable 'scarf' program tirelessly led by Jean Altemeyer.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all those who helped by volunteering their time and talents to our meetings, crafters and sewers, fundraising events, awareness events and administration for the organization. We have had several new people join our community due to the exposure we receive through AFTA in addition to interest from others who have taken notice of the important work we do. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to one of the many opportunities mentioned in 2026.



The cut to USAID by the USA new administration has had a devastating impact on the AIDS battle in Africa. Perhaps that is what has inspired us to do more and be so successful. We look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2026. Staying informed, focused and inspired to do more, we encourage you to log on to your computer each day (or at least several times a week), go to <https://stephenlewisfoundation.org> and read a post or article or watch one of the many informative videos about the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation that we support. Also, check out Grands 'n' More Winnipeg online at <https://grandsnmore.com> and stay informed on local activities and 'Grands' news. We all need to stay focused and inspired to do more to support the global community. Please consider. (cont. p 3)

This Christmas, let us remember Grands ‘n’ More Winnipeg friends we have lost and those facing their first holiday without loved ones. The community of Grands ‘n’ More Winnipeg holds you all in our thoughts.

Wishing you all a safe and blessed holiday season and we look forward to 2026 being another successful year for Grands ‘n’ More Winnipeg.

*-Patty Griffith & Sharon Twilley
Co-Chairs*



GRL Report: December 2025

The most recent GRL meeting took place November 12 and focussed mainly on the 20th anniversary celebration planning.

Save the dates of September 22-24/26 as the 20th Anniversary gathering will take place then, in the Ottawa area. Most of the program will be restricted to registrants (in-person and online) but some public events are planned to create interest and awareness, with some prominent public figures being invited to create a buzz. A number of GRLs insist there must be a march on Parliament Hill! Any ideas for workshops, markets, poster displays, etc. are welcome. The Ottawa region grandmother groups will take the lead in supporting SLF staff with local legwork, but ideas from across the country are needed. What would be on your wish-list if you were to attend?



Even if you do not think you will be able to take part, the SLF would welcome memories and stories from those who have been part of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign for any part of those years, in Canada and in the African communities touched by the Campaign. They wish to compile a record reflecting the meaningfulness and impact of participation. Please pass yours along to Sharon Twilley beginning in the New Year and during the early months of 2026.

Although not strictly speaking part of the GRL discussions, many of the GRLs participated in the November 20 Campaign Zoom meeting, where we heard from **Idah Mukuka Nambeya**. She recounted her experiences and impressions after visiting communities in Zambia where partner organizations are working, to assess the impact of the loss of so much international aid. She told us how very basic grassroots organizing was happening around

maintaining home-based care, education and nutrition. One ironic small benefit of the loss of USAID and some other funding has been the return of some former staff from the international aid organization offices to their communities, where they have been able to apply the knowledge and skills gained in that work to contribute at the community level. Children have been strongly affected by the loss of USAID and have been seeking help at a very local level. Grandmothers have been pitching in to try to keep some local supports for children going, or to develop new ones, volunteering to cook and clean to help grandchildren and others sustain themselves. Income generation supports and counselling services have mostly disappeared as funding dried up, and anecdotally there seem to be more orphaned children appearing.

Idah made an important point: the grandmothers who had been receiving services and managing pretty well before the funding losses have indicated that they are determined not to go back to the state they were in twenty years ago. Their history of determined activism on behalf of themselves and those in their care has given them a passionate sense of ownership in the fight for HIV prevention and education and against gender-based violence. Their past hard-won successes give them courage. But in the wider community there are troubling signs. Even some people who are well educated about HIV and have successfully managed treatment for years have lost hope. They have given up as the energy needed to find treatment and adequate nutrition to keep up with an ever-changing landscape of deprivation and loss, cannot be sustained. Many fear and expect rapidly climbing death rates and feel nothing can be done.

As we now know, Canada cut back significantly in its contribution to the Global Fund despite intense efforts of many organizations, including the SLF, to convince them to keep up the prior level. According to Idah, some African governments are moving to respond to the situation, but it is a slow and uneven process.

We face a new reality.

-Sharon Twilley twilleys@gmail.com

Merchandise Committee Report

The merchandise committee has had 2 pop-up markets in November, which earned more than \$2,000.00 in revenue for Grands 'n' More Winnipeg. I would like to thank OPT Inc. for their space and Jean Altemeyer for pitching pop-ups to community centres.

We have a proposition for our members and supporters.

We would like to hold home jewellery parties. We would be responsible for the jewellery but would ask our members to host us and invite friends, neighbours, children and grandchildren to look at our collection.



We also are planning a spring pop-up yard sale. We would like a yard in or near a busy street. If you live there or know someone who does, please contact us at Jean.clipsham@gmail.com. There is no work involved; we would be outside and would bring everything we need.

-Jean Clipsham

Scarves, AFTA and Something More

Scarves: Due to the remarkable commitment of many 'makers' and the support of even more donors, about 177 scarves have been donated to the Bear Clan to be distributed when its volunteers do their community safety walks. That also means that over \$1,700.00 will be sent to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. HUGE thanks to all who have participated so far. (Of course, we're barely at the beginning of COLD WEATHER.....as more scarves are given to this project, the search for donors will continue.)

A Couple of Talks: At the beginning of November, St. Paul's Anglican Church invited Jean Altemeyer to be part of a morning worship service. She gave information about Grands 'n' More Winnipeg, Art from the Attic, and the scarf project. Members of this congregation have provided hundreds of scarves over the years, including 44 at this service. It was good to be able to thank them in person.

In late November, Jean spoke at Transcona United Church, with an emphasis on how the SLF partner community organizations are doing in the face of the cuts to USAID, and about AFTA. This Church held a 'drop-off-your-art' morning this past summer, resulting in 155 pieces of art. Donnie provided a link to a virtual slide show of AFTA preparation, set-up and Sale Day, with lots of great images. Some of our members attend that church, and further links to AFTA might develop. Some donations were made for the scarf project, even in the absence of scarves on hand. Our work and our projects continue to touch others and to result in various kinds of support.

And Now for Something Different:

With our Merchandise Committee finding ways to hold pop-up sales, we'd like to add 'home baking' when appropriate to the site. About 9 of us did so for a recent sale, and it was successful enough to pursue.

SO, are you willing periodically to be part of a 'Baking Crew'? When we get a date for a sale, we would send a group e-mail to see if enough of us can help. If so, we'll do it; if not, we'll take a pass. None of you would be expected to contribute every time!!

Jean Clipsham has a suggested Pricing List. In general, items would be sold by half-dozen or a dozen; pies/cakes/bread might be sold whole; quick breads (i.e., banana, applesauce) would be sold by halves or thirds. Bakers need to include key ingredients (i.e., wheat, eggs, dairy, nuts, seeds) so buyers know what the items contain.

Jean A. would love to have a Co-Chair for this initiative any takers?

Reply to jeanaltemeyer@shaw.ca with questions and/or to volunteer.

-Jean Altemeyer

