

## *West Carleton Women Set To Climb Mount Kilimanjaro in October 2007*

by Lindsay Valente (West Carleton EMC, September 15, 2006)

A Fitzroy Harbour resident has decided to join a Dunrobin woman in a journey of hope and love in Africa.

In October 2007 Liza Badham will accompany Gisele Mansfield, who has set the goal of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa to raise funds to fight HIV/AIDS in memory of her brother who succumbed to the disease in 1995.

After witnessing the devastation of AIDS on her family, Mansfield decided to help the approximate 25 million people in Africa afflicted by the disease.

"I read about her (Gisele) in the paper and went to her fundraiser," says Badham. "I've always wanted to climb Kilimanjaro and wanted to help her out."

Mansfield has set the goal of raising \$19,335.60, the height of the mountain, to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers' campaign which is in place to help African women raise their grandchildren who have been orphaned by AIDS.

According to HelpAge International, more than 60 per cent of orphaned children live in grandparent-headed households in Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe and more than 50 per cent in Botswana and Malawi.

Badham has a rich history of volunteering with Help The Aged Canada, a non-denominational, non-profit international development organization formed in 1975 with the goal of assisting elderly people living in poverty.

Badham has volunteered her time as a field public relations officer with the organization

and has visited Kenya and Jamaica a number of times to help out.

"I've travelled there a lot but am not a tourist, I am usually working," says Badham. "Anyone who hasn't been there first hand could never understand the devastation."

Last month the West Carleton women attended a Grandmothers' Gathering, hosted by the Stephen Lewis Foundation, in Toronto. The event brought together grandmothers from 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

One of Mansfield's main motivators to raise money for African grandmothers was the birth of her grandson Ryland. Badham has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild and understands the special bond grandparents share.

"It's a different thing than having your own children," she says. "It's very fulfilling and special."

Badham is thrilled to be joining Mansfield in the climb and says she loves working as a volunteer and helping others.

"It's mind-blowing," she says. "It's fantastic and feels wonderful."

To make a donation to Liza Badham, contact her at [fitzroy@magma.ca](mailto:fitzroy@magma.ca). To make a donation to Gisele Mansfield visit <http://www.gigiclimbskili.com> or send them to her home at 4197 Armitage Ave., Dunrobin, Ont., K0A 1T0 or directly to the Stephen Lewis Foundation at 260 Spadina Avenue, Suite 501. Toronto, Ont., M5T 2E4. Please specify that donations are for "Gigi Climbs Kili" fundraiser to ensure that the donation goes directly to the 'Grandmothers to Grandmothers' campaign.