

Granny Bulletin

August 21, 2007

The Granny Bulletin is a bi-weekly update on the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, intended to keep grandmother's groups across Canada informed about, and connected to, the grandmothers and grassroots projects in Africa that are supported through their dedicated fundraising and awareness-raising efforts.

Good afternoon!

We at SLF are continually inspired and awed by all your efforts and the innovative ways in which you are keeping the money steadily coming in to support the indomitable African grandmothers. In the next three bulletins, we will share with you some examples of how this money is spent in specific grassroots projects, and how what might seem like small amounts to us will go a very long way in supporting numerous households.

A FEW QUICK REMINDERS...

- The **Grandparents' Solidarity March** takes place on Parliament Hill on September 8, 2007. Billets are available for those traveling from out of town to attend, and many communities are doing complementary events in solidarity. For more information, please visit: www.grandmotherscampaign.org.
- Granny Bulletins can also be accessed online at: www.grandmotherscampaign.org. Each grandmothers group has been sent a username and password to access the special "grandmothers only" sections of the website. **Every member of a grandmothers group is invited to sign on!** If you have not yet received your username and password, please contact: campaigncoord@stephenlewisfoundation.org.
- Thank you to all who responded to our last poll at www.grandmotherscampaign.org! We heard from you that you want more information about the SLF-led trip to Africa in 2008 (coming soon, so watch your email), and that you would like more stories about individual African grandmothers. There is now a **new poll** on the website that directly relates to the planned trip to Africa, so make your voice heard.
- On **Friday, September 21st at 3pm EST**, SLF will host a telephone workshop on accessing and making the most out of the new grandmothers campaign website (www.grandmotherscampaign.org). Learn how to post your profile, photos, events, resources, share information with other groups, and use the discussion forums! Participation is first-come, first-serve and spaces are limited. If you would like to sign up, contact Julie at: campaigncoord@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

And now, onto the project description...

The following is an example of an SLF-supported project based in East Africa that has been working at the grassroots level in their community for three years now. They recently decided to expand the scope of their activities to specifically reach grandmothers in the area that are collectively taking care of over 400 orphans under great immense financial strain.

The project aims to work with 10 groups totaling 250 grandmothers who are unable to access credit and are therefore unable to secure a reliable source of income. It will facilitate the establishment of small businesses and other income-generating activities. Some of the profits from this will be used to establish a revolving loan fund that will be available to all groups, ensuring that there is a continuous source of funds accessible to all group members. The grandmothers will also be given training in business management. The expected impact of this project is:

- Secure and increased income for grandmothers thereby providing security and a higher standard of living in their homes;
- More children kept with their families rather than being institutionalized in orphanages;
- Income generating activities and empowered grandmothers better able to manage their own money;
- A place for grandmothers to gather and share;
- A revolving community loan fund that grandmothers can access to continue to grow their businesses.

Funding for a 12-month period:

Item	Amount Kenya shillings (1 CDN \$ = 61.72 Ksh)	CAD \$
Credit Fund for 10 groups (250 grandmothers) <i>Fund to help grandmothers establish small businesses and other income-generating projects.</i>	550,000	8,911.24
Purchase of uniforms and foodstuffs <i>School uniforms for orphans and food supplements for their households.</i>	100,000	1,620.37
Purchase of motorbike <i>As this work is being done in a rural area, a motorbike is a cheap and efficient way for project staff to visit the grandmothers.</i>	350,000	5,670.79
Motorbike fuel and maintenance	100,000	1,620.37
Monitoring & evaluation and following up with group members <i>A staff member of the organization will carry out quarterly evaluations of the project and groups.</i>	100,000	1,620.37
Salary and per diems for project staff <i>Base salaries plus per diem costs for staff when they visit groups of grandmothers out of town overnight.</i>	300,000	4,861.11
Training materials	100,000	1,620.22
Totals Ksh.	1,600,000	25,923.88

This project is one of many that use donations to fund income-generating projects; helping grandmothers to live with dignity in the present, and have hope for the future. At the Grandmothers Gathering in August 2006, the need for income-generation projects geared specifically toward grandmothers was brought up time and time again. Many grandmothers explained that their grandchildren can be described as orphans “not because they are abandoned or suffer from a lack of love, care and support – on the contrary, they know that their grandmothers struggle to provide for them every day – but because they are uncertain that their need for food, shelter, education, and clothing will be met.” African grandmothers tied income generation projects directly to their long-term security needs and stated, “We need regular incomes and economic independence in order to erase forever our constant worry about how and whether our families will survive.”

~ PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR GRANDMOTHER’S GROUP

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If you have not received this Bulletin directly from SLF, and would like the bi-weekly Granny Bulletin emailed directly to you, send an email request to:

campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org

You can also view the Granny Bulletin online at:

www.grandmotherscampaign.org