

Granny Bulletin

December 7, 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.

IN THIS GRANNY BULLETIN...

1. **Stephen's World AIDS Day Message**
2. **Holiday Tribute Cards Still Available**
3. **Understanding the New UNAIDS Statistics**
4. **Shared Fundraising Ideas from Grandmothers Groups**
5. **Ontario Regional Resource Group**
6. **Speaker's Bureau Update**

Welcome to the early December edition of the Granny Bulletin!

Many of you have already ordered and received SLF World AIDS Day postcards for activities you held on November 30 and December 1st. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for reflection and renewed commitment, so we thought there is really no better way to begin this Granny Bulletin than to share Stephen's World AIDS Day message with you.

Warmest wishes,
Julie & Ilana

1. **Stephen's World AIDS Day Message (December 1, 2007)**

"We've made some incremental progress on treatment for AIDS in Africa. Intense prevention efforts have led to reductions in prevalence rates in a

handful of countries. Glimmers of hope have begun to fracture the gloom. But the one area that has withstood every intervention is the vulnerability of women. Gender inequality, poisoned further by sexual violence, is still taking an horrendous toll. And when the women are disproportionately infected, dying in such large numbers, it's the orphan children who become the haunting legacy of the pandemic.

On this World AIDS Day, when the theme is "leadership," let us demonstrate leadership where the women of Africa are concerned. Make no mistake: the women are the backbone of the continent, with a sophistication, decency, courage and resilience that are staggering. They deserve our collective support with every will at our command. Please give generously if you possibly can."

Stephen Lewis,
Chair of the Board
Stephen Lewis Foundation

2. Holiday Tribute Cards Still Available

In the last Granny Bulletin, we shared the news of the Grandmothers Campaign holiday giving postcards, and since then we have been busy wrapping packages of five and ten in red raffia and mailing them out to groups across Canada. If your group would like to order cards, please do so by **December 14th** so that we have time to get them out to you before December 25th.

Ordering is simple - send an email to: campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org indicating how many cards you would like and your mailing address.

You can also view the card online on the Grandmothers Campaign website at: www.grandmotherscampaign.org

3. Understanding the New UNAIDS Statistics

As many of you are aware, the latest report from UNAIDS reduced estimates of the number of HIV infections globally to approximately 33 million people, down from the estimated 39.5 million in 2006. The changes are largely reflective of improvements in methodology for collecting statistics, rather than the dramatic

effects of prevention and treatment strategies. The new report states that 70% of the reductions are related to changes in only six countries, and re-confirm staggering numbers in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The new estimates confirm a continuing apocalypse for sub-Saharan Africa: 22.5 million infections (61% of them women), 68% of world-wide infections, 76% of all deaths, 11.4 million orphans... this is where the focus must be, this is where it should always have been..." Stephen Lewis, November 23, 2007

You can read more about the new UNAIDS statistics, as well as Stephen's speech to the World Health Editor's Network on November 23, within which he speaks about understanding the new numbers, on the Grandmothers Campaign website at: www.grandmotherscampaign.org.

4. Shared Fundraising Ideas from Grandmothers Groups

A few weeks ago, we asked all grandmothers groups to forward any fundraising initiatives they were pursuing, that could be undertaken by other grandmothers groups in advance of the holidays. And today.... we are happy to share your fabulous fundraising ideas!

GoGo Shoppers

The Cobourg GogoGetters have a project that we'd like to publicize in time for the Christmas shopping season. We've set up a website called Gogo Shoppers <http://www.gogoshoppers.ca> It's a way for people to raise money to help the Stephen Lewis Foundation by using our site to do their online shopping.

Every time someone follows one of our links and buys something from any of the online stores listed on our website, we are paid a commission that we pass along to the SLF.. There is no extra cost to the shopper at all. Please tell everyone you can think of to make use of our site.

A-COIN-A-DAY (proposed by Jim Holtslander)

Stephen Lewis said, "The fact of the matter is that as all studies show, the pandemic is still outrunning our capacity to respond. It remains the most grievous source of horror on the planet." We Canadians can truly help the grandmothers in Africa. We need to become a huge united team from sea to sea

to sea; each one of us contributing to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. What can each one of us do? The answer is contribute!!

Let us presume there are 30 days in each month. By contributing \$1.00 per day, this would be a contribution of \$30.00 per month. Most people want to give, but some might feel \$1.00 per day is too much. Then, let each one pick a coin more suitable to their budget--from a penny to a toonie. Each and every month that would work out to: pennies = 30 cents; nickels = \$1.50; dimes = \$3.00; quarters = \$7.50; fifty cent pieces = \$15.00; loonies = \$30.00; and toonies = \$60.00.

Poster Parties

*Elizabeth McKee has created a fun, new fundraiser called a Poster Party. Participants come together and dress 13 figures on a poster which she has designed as a spin-off from her book called *For Immediate Release*. The book includes the full text of a speech titled *This World Is Off Its Rocker When It Comes To Women* by Stephen Lewis, a poem called *Fugue* by Robyn Sarah and the song *Bread and Roses* by James Oppenheim.*

Posters sell for \$15 (US or Canadian) each, plus shipping. \$10 of the selling price will be donated to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. McKee can be reached in Maryland at 410-544-1321 or by email at alphabeth5@yahoo.com. McKee would be happy to sell poster kits for \$10 each, plus postage, to Granny Groups with the understanding that they would be marked up to at least \$20. She would also love to be invited to talk to Granny Groups and to show her book.

South Fraser Greeting Cards

The South Fraser Gogos in British Columbia have produced some beautiful greeting cards featuring the mother-child logo designed for the Creston group. We were fortunate to have local printer Kits Graphics do all our production for free so the cost of the cards to us is minimal (82 cents a package of 12). We are selling them \$10 for a package of 12. The cards are suitable for use by any faith for any occasion, but with the holiday season approaching they are perfect as Christmas/Hannukah cards or to give in the package as a hostess gift or stocking stuffer.

Using these cards raises funds for the cause, as well as spreading information about the African grannies and orphans - there is a short and simple explanation on the back of the cards about where the funds

go. If you would like to see what the cards look like, and to order, go to: <http://www.lifewellspent.com/gogos/card.htm> Large orders (20-30 packs) have been costing about \$20 to ship across the country.

Carolyn Usher
South Fraser Gogos
604-594-4504

Captive: A Survival Story

SOON TO BE RELEASED *Captive: A survival story by Donalda Reid is the never-before-told story of a British Columbian woman captured at gun point by Rwandan Hutu Interahamwe milita while on a gorilla viewing trek in Africa. Held in a jungle clearing, struggling to communicate with her captors, unsure why she had been captured or when she would be released, she needed all her strength to survive. To read about her capture and the life altering legacy of fear that followed her afterward, buy the book through the Welisa Gogos (single copies \$20 plus \$3 shipping and handling) welisagogos@gmail.com. Granny groups, ask about quantity discounts. All profits go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.*

Kidzpositive Beadwork

The Ubuntu Grannies of Fall River, Nova Scotia are selling beadwork produced by Kidzpositive from Cape Town, South Africa. Currently we have Star of Hope cards, a blank card with a beaded star for your tree or window; Xmas pins; red ribbon twisted pins. For more information and pictures contact: judywaugh@eastlink.ca

Mother's Day Brunch

Consider brunch at home! Instead of visiting a restaurant for Mother's Day Brunch – or any other family meal – make brunch together at home and donate the money saved to the Grandmothers Campaign. I envisioned it working like this - brunch \$17 x 4 persons plus GST plus tip - making brunch at home - then donating the \$ saved. In our case it came to \$82 which I donated to G4G. It was easy to do & made everyone feel honoured to be a mother.

Marilyn Garnett

You can also find fundraising ideas and event announcements on the Grandmothers Campaign website at: www.grandmotherscampaign.org. Log in today and post your own events and ideas!

5. Ontario Regional Resource Group

FROM ORRG's profile on the Grandmothers Campaign website:

“The Ontario Regional Resource Group (ORRG) helps Ontario's grandmothers groups with group development, fundraising, advocacy, and public education by developing guides, manuals and newsletters and by organizing workshops and regional meetings. ORRG formed in 2007 to foster the growth of a strong network of grandmothers groups in Ontario, supporting the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign at the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Other grandmothers groups across Canada have formed alliances and networks to help and motivate each other, to share ideas and, sometimes, to work together on projects. But there are now 100 grandmothers groups in Ontario! Our challenge is to help all these grandmothers groups in Ontario network, without creating additional layers of bureaucracy. There have been three Ontario/Toronto meetings so far this year, with representatives from many grandmothers groups. The meetings have included workshops on fundraising, advocacy, the speakers' kit (which Mary Anna Beer has developed). Best of all, the meetings have provided a terrific opportunity for all of us to meet, learn and motivate.

If you decide not to join this Ontario Grandmothers Network, that's okay too! If you want to get involved, send your contact information today to orrggrandmothers@gmail.com.”

6. Speaker's Bureau Update

The Speakers' Bureau training sessions have been highly successful and very well attended this fall. We now have 210 grandmothers from Halifax to B.C. who have participated in the workshops and have received the comprehensive resource kits. These kits include six Power Point presentations with many pictures and main speaking points, personal stories and other resources which can be adapted to all audiences.

Sessions will begin again in the New Year with dates being booked in northern,

eastern and south-western Ontario and Quebec. Winnipeg and points in the Maritimes will be held in April and May.

If you are interested in participating in the training and/or would be willing to organize a cluster of groups from your area to attend a session please contact me at:

truebeer@rogers.com or mbeer@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

I am looking forward to meeting more wonderful women in 2008!

All the best,

Mary Anna Beer

Advisor to the Stephen Lewis Foundation for the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

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Check out the NEW GRANDMOTHERS CAMPAIGN WEBSITE at:

www.grandmotherscampaign.org.

Share events, get news on the campaign, and READ THE GRANNY BULLETIN ONLINE on this easy-to-use site.

** If you are a member of a grandmothers group and would like your group's profile password, or if you would like to receive the Granny Bulletin directly via email, write to Julie at:

campaigncoord@stephenlewisfoundation.org **