

# Granny Bulletin

September 24, 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 morning!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Granny Bulletin. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out more information regarding the October launch of *Women: The Face of AIDS*, stories from the Grandparents Day Solidarity March on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and of course the planned 2008 trip to Africa for grandmothers.

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In the last Granny Bulletin, we shared an example of a grassroots project that was able to – on only a \$30,000 budget – provide school uniforms, start a credit fund, buy food, and do much more for 250 grandmothers over 12 months. These concrete provisions translate into dignity and hope, not just for the grandmothers but for the orphans in their care. In this Granny Bulletin, we would like to share the work of another incredible project with you.

This project, based in South Africa, is a true testament to what a small group of grandmothers can achieve, if supported in their efforts. The group was formed six years ago and in this short time has become an integral part of their community. They are continually growing and evolving to meet the ever-growing and evolving effects of the pandemic; initiating and running activities that provide emotional, psychological and financial support. They also act as a “community watch” of sorts, creating and implementing projects that respond directly to the needs of vulnerable children in the community.

## **Services provided by this project:**

### **1. An after-school service**

In January 2007, the grandmothers involved with the project started an after-school program created specifically for local-area children who were going home after school to an empty house – because the parent or caretaker is at work – or to a seriously impoverished home. This makes these children more vulnerable to abuse, malnutrition and other health complications.

The objectives of this project are:

- To provide a secure environment where children can spend time after school;
- To offer the children a place where they can participate in enriching group activities;
- To supervise homework;
- To offer a meal to children who might otherwise go without;
- To give the grandmothers a meaningful project outside their homes and new training (e.g. first aid).

Results so far:

- After one week in existence, there were 75 children in the programme
- All the children were being fed
- Homework is now supervised
- There are knitting and beading classes
- A choir has been formed
- The grandmothers teach English literacy, tell traditional stories and teach traditional songs
- The broader community has also become involved in managing and sustaining the programme.

## 2. Pre-school bursaries

The pre-school program was started three years ago for orphaned children whose grandmothers could not afford to send them to pre-school. These grandmothers were extremely concerned about two significant hurdles these children would face once they entered the education system: the fact that they were orphans, and their lack of preparation for formal education.

Funds provided by the Stephen Lewis Foundation will provide pre-school bursaries for 86 children in 2007 and 100 children in 2008.

### Budget (12 months):

Description	South African Rand <i>(1 CDN \$ = R6.78)</i>	CAD \$
<b>After-school service</b>		
Stipend for 2 Childcare coordinators	R18000	\$2,653.87
Stipend for Community liaison grandmother	R6000	\$887.23
Stipend for activity coordinators - at least 5 grandmothers each afternoon	R25000	\$3,697.01
Gas, electricity, water & telephone costs	R7200	\$1,064.74
Fire extinguishers and yearly maintenance	R1000	\$147.87
First Aid box	R1000	\$147.87
First Aid training for grandmothers	R3000	\$443.61
Sports equipment - 4 swing balls	R1400	\$207.02
Transport money for grandmothers  <i>Subsidizes grannies' transportation costs to the centre</i>	R2400	\$354.79
Beach outing for children  <i>A deeply meaningful opportunity for the children to be children for a day.</i>	R5000	\$739.40
<b>Pre-school program</b>		
Preschool bursaries  <i>86 for 2007 &amp; 100 for 2008</i>	R182,140	\$26,934.96
<b>Administration</b>  <i>To meet the growing needs of the organization, an Executive director was hired and the existing Project Manager's salary package was upgraded.</i>		
Staff salaries	R200916	\$29,705.95
Internet connection	R6948	\$1,027.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R460,004</b>	<b>\$64,914.02</b>

This project epitomizes the demands from African grandmothers made in the *Toronto Statement* in August 2006:

“In the short-term, we do not need a great deal, but we do need *enough*: enough to safeguard the health of our grandchildren and of ourselves; enough to put food in their mouths, roofs over their heads and clothes on their backs; **enough to place them in school and keep them their long enough to secure their futures**. For ourselves **we need training**, because the skills we learned while raising our children did not prepare us for parenting grandchildren who are bereaved, impoverished, confused, and extremely vulnerable. We need assurance that when help is sent, it goes beyond the cities and reaches the villages where we live.”

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to ensuring African grandmothers have *enough*.

Julie Coultas  
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Check out the NEW GRANDMOTHERS CAMPAIGN WEBSITE at:  
[www.grandmotherscampaign.org](http://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](mailto:campaigncoord@stephenlewisfoundation.org) \*\*