Ujamaa Grandmas

2011 Annual Report

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Volunteers for Bags, Babies, and Beyond, October 14 and 15, 2011

President's Report

2011 was Ujamaa Grandmas' first full year as an incorporated non-profit society, and it was a year of growth and consolidation.

Detailed reports on all our activities follow. Highlights of the year included:

- Our two major fundraisers, the Unused Fabric and Yarn Sale in April, and the Bags, Babies and Beyond Sale in October, built on the experience of prior years and continued the upward trend of increasing profits to send off to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.
- Kazuri jewellery sales, the annual Bake Sale and the pre-Christmas shopping day partnership with Ten Thousand Villages also made important contributions to our fundraising total.
- We developed a wonderful website which tells the world what we are about and keeps our members and friends informed of current activities, past results, and ongoing opportunities for involvement.
- We formalized the process for becoming a member or a friend of Ujamaa Grandmas, by directing people to our on-line survey, and our numbers continued to grow. We use the information in our membership database to recruit volunteers for new projects as they arise.
- Our speakers visited several organizations and school events to raise awareness and funds for the Grandmothers Campaign, creating skits for children as well as presentations.

My thanks go out to all the committed members and friends who work so hard in so many ways to raise awareness and funds to help the grandmothers and children in Africa who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Whether through serving on the Board or various committees, managing our web page, doing our mail-outs to members, producing wonderful handcrafts, joining the army of volunteers needed to run our sales, hosting our monthly gatherings, making presentations, and more – all these roles are vital and enabled us to contribute almost $60,000 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation in 2011.

As I write about the year 2011 from the vantage point of May, 2012, I know already how our enthusiasm is continuing, we are becoming more effective as an organization, and our creativity is boundless. 2012 promises to be an even better year!

Submitted by Leslie Buckle

Report from the Handcrafts Committee

Committee Members

Joan Benedict, Leslie Buckle, Patty Cucman, Edna Gardner (Chair), Joyce Goddard, Heather Hachey, Sharon Kimmel, Liz Leroux, Ellen Monaghan

Activities

The Handcrafts Committee continued with the responsibility for organizing the annual handcrafts sale, *Bags, Babies & Beyond* on October 14-15, 2011. Money raised at the sale is forwarded to the Grandmothers' Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The Committee met almost monthly to review new ideas for merchandise, establish guidelines such as pricing, organize skill developing workshops, and to establish a schedule of monthly gatherings which provided support and guidance to the volunteers.

Sale: Bags, Babies & Beyond

The *Bags, Babies & Beyond* sale expanded with an increased number of handcrafters, higher quantity and diversity of inventory, and continued improvement in the appearance of the sale. With this expansion came the need to create additional "product guardians" to maintain information on the expanding inventory (approximately 2,500 items). Other actions included developing uniform price tags, providing ninety aprons to identify volunteers, expanding publicity, and establishing a strong presence on the website including the popular "Sneak Peek" of sale items.

At each monthly Gathering finished products were collected, admired and given feedback. Supplies and kits for sewing and knitting projects were also distributed at meetings and from some Committee members' homes. In addition to their time, many members also contributed high quality supplies to create products for the sale.

The raffle this year showcased sixteen items from various areas in the sale and proved to be very popular. By noon on Saturday, the 500 raffle tickets were sold out. The raffle continues to provide funds for public awareness and administrative costs of our organization.

The incredible effort of the volunteers, creators and committee members did result in encouraging results. Our net contribution to the Grandmother's Campaign was $31,286. This did not include the $1,000 from the raffle or direct SLF donations made at the sale.

Workshops

Five workshops were held to improve and share members' skills. The workshops were: Post-it Note Covers, Felting, Jackets, Ujamaa Grandma's Angels and Embellishments. Our thanks are extended to the women who facilitated and participated in the workshops.

Monthly Gatherings

Each month, North-side and South-side Gatherings were convened in member's homes which always provided a lively social component to the business discussion. The Gatherings provided an important opportunity to exchange information and ideas on plans for the sale and the work of the SLF. Gatherings were held on alternating days of the week and time (morning, afternoon, evening) in order to allow members to attend the most convenient location and time. Average attendance was 15-20 members.

The Handcrafts Committee would like to express its appreciation to all the Ujamaa Grandmas, and their friends and families, for their many hours of work in preparing for the sale and supporting it with their attendance and purchases. We could not succeed in raising the funds without you. Thank you.

Submitted by Edna Gardner

Report from the Fabric Sale Committee

At the end of November 2010, an email went out to all members requesting people interested in joining a new committee for the fourth annual fundraising event. In December, the first meeting was held with two outgoing members and a group of perspective members present. Out of that initial meeting, a new fabric sale committee was formed, consisting of Bertha Davis, Joan McGreevy, Carla Lorfing, Leigh Aquart, and Heather Hachey.

Joan sent out our call for volunteers at the beginning of March. She fielded the responses and organized the schedules for presale work days and sale day.

Getting out the posters to volunteers and general membership as well as posting them in daily life locations yielded many donations from the community at large and even further away. People who did not belong to Ujamaa Grandmas also volunteered.

Phone calls to businesses yielded connections. One business sent out our posters to their customers. Once people knew who we were, we got some "anything you want. I believe in your cause", responses.

We had a presorting day at Leigh's suggestion allowing us to get an idea of what we had. Also, having Joan's expertise with fabric allowed us to learn more for the actual work days. Judy Carrell took on this role on the presale days.

The presale days went smoothly. Everyone pitched in, did what was needed, asked questions, made suggestions, reorganized as needed. It was truly team work from beginning to end: from hauling boxes to sorting (and the colour coordination of fabric) to washing the floors afterwards. There was a general positive attitude of wanting to help/we're all in this together. Our "go to" people helped organization of the areas, such as yarn, cutting room, quilting and decisions were easier and smoother. We asked each shift of volunteers to write or tell the next group how they were organizing. At the suggestion of the outgoing committee we rented a disposal dumpster, an essential. Kathee Todtman and a group of volunteers produced aprons to identify our volunteers, with the Ujamaa Grandmas' logo silkscreened on the front.

Because we were new at this, we asked to understand and did things that built on the success of the previous years of work. That allowed us to work cooperatively, with respect for the expertise of others and opened the door for communication. We learned a lot and came away from those days with much to consider and to re-evaluate. Our successes came from asking for help, stumbling through some of the time and being a team. Everyone worked hard and had fun (one of our goals).

On the sale day, volunteers were signed in, provided with aprons and were ready to help our customers. The heavy influx at the beginning of the day meant that we needed to be flexible in our roles, adjust by making more pay stations. Having debit/credit machines meant some customers went back to do more shopping. The colour organization of fabrics, signage, room maps and volunteers guided customers. The cheerful atmosphere was key. The tallies recording customer purchases were helpful in streamlining the checkout process and giving them out to customers at the door, even better. Closing time meant clean up but also getting our leftovers to the appropriate recipients. We were able to quickly get things out the door and clean up the space.

Our recipients were prearranged and there were a few impromptu ones as well. The donations went to the Mennonite Central Committee, Bibles for Missions, High River Victoria's Quilts, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Forest Lawn High School fashion program and drama department, an individual making items for Samaritan's Purse, a volunteer's sewing class, and Goodwill Industries.

We brought in over $20,000 at the sale. We had very few expenses (honorarium to janitor, ad in Country Register, cost of debit/credit machines, dumpster). Most things were donated, such as tea, coffee, paper, etc. Our net profit was $19,182.

These were busy days that just got busier as we got closer to the sale. It was an amazing learning experience, full of good people, good things happening from many connections our communication set in motion, and most of all, working together for a common goal that will help so many in need. We were honoured to be part of this remarkable journey.

Submitted by Carla Lorfing

Report from the Education and Awareness Coordinator

February 3, 2011

A group of Ujamaa Grandmas went to Dr. Morris Gibson Elementary School in Okotoks where they presented a skit depicting the life of African orphans and ways Canadian children can help. This was an introduction to the Red Shoelace campaign. The UG's were warmly received by staff and students.

February 14, 2011
Ujamaa Grandmas returned to Dr. Morris Gibson school for their annual Heart to Heart marketplace sale for charity. This year the chosen charity was Ujamaa Grandmas / Stephen Lewis Foundation. The proceeds from the market, as well as the sale of shoelaces yielded over $5000 for the Grandmothers Campaign – from ONE school!

February 16, 2011
Two Ujamaa Grandmas, Yvonne Way and Diane Woods, presented at the annual Calgary Board of Education "My World" conference for junior high students. Both sessions were filled to capacity - the students were very interested in the plight of African orphans / grandmothers and the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This was the third year that Ujamaa Grandmas were invited to present at this conference.

March 15, 2011
Diane Woods spoke at F.E.Osborne Junior High at the invitation of teacher Michele Midyette who had attended the UG session at the My World Conference. In addition to the talk / slide show / video, the Red Shoelace Campaign was introduced. FEO students subsequently raised $232 for the SLF by selling the shoelaces. (They would have raised more had the sponsoring teacher not had to go on a prolonged personal leave due to serious illness in the family.)

In addition to the above there were two additional presentations to adult groups netting donations of $565.

Submitted by Anne Taylor with input from Diane Woods and Louise Breadner

Report on the Kazuri Jewellery Project

It was another great year for Kazuri Jewellery and the Grandmothers Connection (the Ottawa group that started this fundraiser). Grandmothers' groups held 180 events Canada-wide. The total amount raised for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign in 2011 was $133,662.00. Since 2007 the Grandmothers Connection has contributed a grand total of $508,306.00 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, all from the sale of Kazuri Jewellery. In addition to raising money for the Grandmothers Campaign, together we help to employ 300 vulnerable women in a fair trade workshop that pays above average wages and provides medical benefits to its workers and their children and grandchildren. This is definitely a win-win situation.

In 2011 Ujamaa Grandmothers hosted 14 events. Our gross sales were $5,875.00. Our total contribution to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmother campaign was $2,405.00. This does not include donations that were sent separately.

Thanks again to everyone who hosted or worked an event. We encourage our members to get involved by hosting their own event or by volunteering to work an event. Hopefully, we can make 2012 even more successful.

Submitted by Hilda Hunter

Report from the Bake Sale Committee

Once again the Ujamaa Grandmas held a very successful bake sale as part of the NGO Village at the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival held on November 18-20, 2011 at River Park Church.

Sally Shah coordinated both the baking and the sales volunteers. There was an amazing display ranging from nuts'n'bolts to pies via cakes, muffins and squares. Not only did they look delicious, they were also beautifully wrapped. Bakers dropped off baking on Friday and Saturday; a few returned on the Sunday morning with yet more donations.

Twenty volunteers donated their time to sell the baking and promote awareness of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the work it does for grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa. They and many other volunteers donated their baking. In total $1512 was made and sent to the Foundation. Kazuri Jewellery was sold on the Sunday afternoon for a second year.

It is very heartening to see that the Ujamaa Bake Sale has become a fixture at this event and that many people come not for the films but for the baking. Had there been more baking, we could have raised more money.

Submitted by Sally Shah

Report from the Advocacy Liaison

This year saw the reconfiguration of GRAN [Grandmothers Advocacy Network], which is now a separate organization from the Stephen Lewis Grandmothers with both groups working in a mutually supportive relationship.

The year was mostly occupied with preliminary preparations for once again lobbying the federal government to pass the CAMR amendments in the previous Bill C-393. Grandmothers and grand-others across this country made a huge difference then and intend to repeat and improve upon that performance in the coming year. New bills will be put forward in the Senate or the House but significant work has been going on behind-the-scenes strengthening and expanding the CAMR Reform coalition and contributing to strategy discussions with sympathetic civil society organizations.

Additionally, work is being done to understand the situation regarding India as an important source of generic drugs for developing countries and its impasse in on-going trade negotiations with The European Union (home to the head offices of many multinational pharmaceutical giants). The issue is around Data Exclusivity. DE takes proprietary rights beyond the normal patent protection time, by denying access to clinical trial information. This means that even after patents had expired, generic drug companies would not be given access to existing data and would have to conduct their own clinical trials, adding years and many dollars to the cost of producing an equivalent but cheaper alternative. Médecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) reports that over 80% of the medicines used to treat patients with HIV/AIDS in developing countries currently come from India. The potential that the distribution of generic drugs from India might be curtailed is yet another reason why reform of Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR) is imperative. This is only part of a very complex situation that is being studied in order to understand the importance of the passing of amendments to CAMR.

Financial Report

As Treasurer of the organization, I certify that the information in the attached Financial Report is a true and complete accounting of the financial activities and assets of the Ujamaa Grandmas for the fiscal year January 1 - December 31, 2011

Signed copy on file Date: April 6, 2012

Louise Breadner

Financial Reviewers' Report

As the appointed financial reviewers, we have reviewed the Financial Report of the Ujamaa Grandmas for the fiscal year January 1 - December 31, 2011. The review included examination of the financial records and supporting documentation as provided to us in the course of the review.

In our opinion, this report fairly presents the results of the Ujamaa Grandmas organization for the fiscal year and its financial position at December 31, 2011, on an accounting basis consistent with that of the preceding year. We have made a number of recommendations for presentation to the Board of Directors, and are available for further consultation with the Treasurer.

Signed copy on file Date: April 6, 2012

Cheryll Caldwell

Signed copy on file Date Apr 12, 2012

Lynette Johnston

INCOME STATEMENT			
	2010	**2011**	
INCOME			
Bags, Babies and Beyond sale	$27,962.37	$33,814.96	
Raffle	$502.00	$1,003.00	
Fabric Sale	$19,555.64	$20,455.80	
Kazuri Jewellery sales	$8,595.00	$5,875.00	
Bake Sale- Justice Film Festival	$1,731.00	$1,512.35	
Misc Donations	$860.91	$995.00	Speakers Bureau $565
Misc sales year round	$369.00	$116.00	
Ten Thousand Villages "Sunday Sale"	$327.14	$874.57	
Schools project		$1,291.23	
Workshops		$49.75	
Turning the Tide Stephen Lewis Visit	$18,392.00		
Second hand store donations	$280.80		
National walk	$65.00		
	$78,640.86	**$65,987.66**	
EXPENDITURES			
Stephen Lewis Foundation UG	$61,750.00	$59,142.00	
Bags, Babies and Beyond sale		$2,529.04	rent, insurance, advertising, Moneris fees, kitchen, product cost
Fabric sale		$1,273.37	rent, advertising, float, Moneris fees, honorarium, waste bin
Kazuri Jewellery payments	$8,634.00	$5,888.00	
Supplies and materials	$1,046.18	$376.94	
Bank charges	$167.94	$59.40	
Moneris monthly expense		$197.00	
Woodcliffe Insurance	$153.00	$195.00	
Printing	$27.56	$28.44	
Website		$206.47	
Facility rental for sales	$1,220.00		2011-included in specific event costs
Advertising	$95.00		2011-included in specific event costs
Moneris expense for sales	$774.64		2011-included in specific event costs
Handcraft production costs	$296.03		2011-included in specific event costs
incorporation fee	$50.00		
Meeting expenses	$150.00		
	$74,364.35	**$69,895.66**	

Deposited funds Jan 2011			
10,000 villages		**$346.09**	not included above
Misc product sale		**$76.00**	not included above
	Total	**$422.09**	
Bank Balance Dec 31, 2010	**$6,998.80**		
Bank Balance Dec 31, 2011	**$3,082.83**		

BALANCE SHEET			
	2010	**2011**	
Assets			
TD Bank Account	$6,998.80	$3,082.83	
Undeposited Funds	$422.09	$0.00	
2012 Prepaid Expense	$0.00	$430.06	2 hall rental deposits (Oct. handcraft sale, Sept.
Total Assets	**$7,420.89**	**$3,512.89**	
Liabilities	$0.00	$0.00	
Total Liabilities	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
Total Equity	**$7,420.89**	**$3,512.89**	

Notes:

These statements include only the funds that go through the Ujamaa Grandmas bank account. Donations made directly to the Stephen Lewis Foundation are not reflected.

The Foundation reports that in addition to our contribution of $59,142 reported in the Income Statement, **$26,978** in direct SLF donations have been attributed to Ujamaa activities, including $3,852 from Dr. Morris Gibson School in Okotoks and $2405 from our Kazuri sales.

In total, our Chapter's 2011 direct and indirect contributions to SLF add up to $86,125.

Kazuri Sales

An additional $2405 was donated to the Foundation for our Chapter's Kazuri sales. This reflects 41% of our gross sales.