

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign Spring 2014 Southern Alberta Liaison update

Hello ladies

I hope this finds you all well and anticipating spring!

I have just returned from our annual liaison meeting at the SLF Foundation office in Toronto. 10 of us attended this year and as usual were met warmly by the amazing SLF staff members- they are so gracious, welcoming, always very appreciative of what Grandmothers are doing across Canada, and so admire the creativity and diversity of projects.

I wanted to share some key information with you:

- Moni Kim is no longer with the Foundation. **Our Alberta group contact going forward will be Sydney Oastler** soastler@stephenlewisfoundation.org or 1-888-203-9990 x309. I met Sydney and she is very eager to get to hear from you and address any needs or concerns you may have. Feel free to also contact Tammy Ebuon tebuon@stephenlewisfoundation.org but Tammy will be leaving on March 7 for one year of Maternity Leave. She is so looking forward to being a Mummy!
- We encourage all groups to **post your events on the Grandmothers event calendar at our G2G website**. Please contact Sydney (email address above) with the details of your upcoming events and she will post it for you. This gives other groups a chance to perhaps attend your event, or new ideas for fundraising
- There is great excitement around the upcoming Grandmothers trip to Africa which begins at the end of Feb. We are thrilled that Chris Hume (Red Deer), Alison Longson (Calgary) and Candace Jackson (Edmonton) will represent Alberta. **Please consider inviting these 3 women to speak at upcoming events** during the next year. I can link you to them if you are interested.
- We hope you have all read the Special Grassroots Edition on the GRANDMOTHERS TRIBUNAL held in Vancouver last September. I have copies here or you can order some from Sydney at SLF. When the African Grandmothers were asked what the best part was for them, they all responded that it was "The love from the Canadian Grandmothers!"
- Amount raised by Grandmothers since 2006- **\$19 MILLION**. The Foundation receives approx. \$10.5 Million in donations annually and 20 percent (\$2 Million) from the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Thanks to each and every group member who is contributing in so many different ways!!
- Fundraising remains the SLF's major focus as other major funders are withdrawing from Africa- we were encouraged to try to start new Grandmothers groups so appreciate any ideas you may have regarding this.
- 3 members from Ont and Atlantic provinces are pulling together a new comprehensive package for Speakers Bureau presentations which is titled '**Spread The Word**'.
Part 1- Info on Hiv/Aids pandemic, SLF, G2G and list of resources for presenters
Part 2- Two sample presentations, components of successful presentations, ideas of 'who to approach'
Part 3- How to develop Speakers Bureau in your region/ group including options for structure
- Stride To Turn The Tide, an annual walk which has raised over \$3 Million in the past 5 years, will be coordinated by Sydney at SLF this year. See the latest Granny Bulletin for more info. Last year, a group of Belleville Grandmothers, organized a walking club and tracked their cumulative miles walked on a map of Africa. They raised an impressive amount of money, lost weight and gained stronger friendships!
- SLF has received many requests to import handcrafts from African projects for sale here in Canada. They have agreed to organize a pilot with one of the established projects however a group in Canada will have to take on the coordination as is currently the case with Kazuri jewelry. Target date- spring 2015
- I hope to see most of you this spring as I hope to visit all the groups in S Alberta. Please contact me at lmbreadner@shaw.ca or 403-698-2670. **Cheers, Louise**