

Southern Alberta Grandmothers Newsletter

December 2015

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign of

The Stephen Lewis Foundation

Dear Grandmothers,

This is our first attempt at a Southern Alberta newsletter and we hope to do this several times throughout the year to keep us informed and connected. We invite you to send us things to include as well.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration

With the New Year fast approaching, our celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign is drawing close at hand.

Marilyn and I are wondering if your groups are planning any special events to celebrate. Each of our groups is different and all of our celebrations need to reflect that. In talking to other Grandmother Regional Liaisons, we know this will be the way groups across Canada will be approaching the anniversary. For some groups, just carrying on with their normal events will be the plan. For others, they will work on their regional gatherings. Or there may be some special things planned as well. We are looking forward to hearing from you as we listen to other liaisons share their area's plans too.

The date for our provincial gathering is not set and depends on Stephen Lewis' calendar but we hope that as many of us as possible will be able to come together in September for that part of our celebration.

We are planning on putting together a calendar of Southern Alberta Grandmother's events for the year. In talking to Judy Dube of the northern grandmothers groups, we are thinking that our theme for the year will be sharing, support and working in solidarity here in Alberta. Our hope is that we might even be able to visit each other for some of our events. And getting the conversations and dialogue going between each other will enhance our fundraising and awareness as we share the what and the how of the things we do.

Please let us know the events and dates you have planned. If something comes up along the way, we can let everyone know. Would you send us that information in early January so we can compile it and share it all around?

Whatever we decide to do, it will be a true reflection of the tremendous work of all of you.

PS We could even set aside a common date and time for our groups to gather in our respective towns and have a toast to all Grandmothers and the beginning of the next ten years. What do you think about March in solidarity with the BC Grandmothers Gathering which will be the official beginning of the year's celebrations?

South Africa Trip

As you have seen in the Granny Bulletin, the deadline is January 7th, but Graham at the foundation can be flexible in receiving applications if you let him know. Are there any Grandmothers from Southern Alberta applying for the trip? It is a wonderful opportunity to witness things first hand.

African Based Merchandizing

Because the Kazuri jewelry is no longer available, some grandmothers are testing the waters with some other items, such as baskets and beadwork. So far, there is nothing to replace it on the scale of Kazuri. But if any groups are doing direct merchandizing from Africa, please let us know. The foundation and the liaisons would be interested in the links, information and what your experiences have been.

Ideas and Questions

Should you ever have any ideas that would be of interest and benefit to all of us, please pass them on to us and we can share them with everyone.

When questions arise, please send those to us because there is a monthly conference call with all the regional liaisons and the foundation where we can present your inquiries. And coming up in January, there is the annual regional liaison meeting in Toronto, so any questions can be put on the agenda for that time as well.

Carla will be attending this year and Marilyn in 2017, as we are taking turns. As you know the foundation arranges our transportation using donated areoplan miles and the attendees are billeted with local grandmothers.

Good News

The Grandmothers for Grandmothers Mountainview shared some of their good news. In the coming year they are thinking of repeating their participation in the Elks Garage Sale. This could be a great incentive for us to take a road trip!

They have celebrated with a Christmas party this month that included a silent auction (and as Jean, their treasurer said, “it was anything but silent”). I am sure that when they announced raising another \$1000 the cheers could be heard for miles. And they have much to celebrate, raising \$70,000.00 since May 2008 with \$10,000.00 coming in this year. Congratulations and well done, ladies!

Another special event was the Balzac Breakfast with Santa. Mountainview and Cochrane Grandmothers will each earn a third of the profits from this fun event. Great collaboration!

Be sure to look for an update from us in early January. And we’ll look forward to hearing and sharing your plans for the new year.

The next few weeks will be busy ones as we prepare for the holidays. So, be sure to set aside a time to put your feet up and relax too. Wishing you all the very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday with family and friends,

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