Grandmothers groups share three goals.

Raise funds to meet the needs of African grandmothers and the children in their care.

Raise awareness about the expertise and leadership of Africa’s grandmothers and their struggle to secure a hopeful and healthy future for generations of children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS.

Build solidarity among grandmothers in order to better understand and sustain the vital work being done at the grassroots to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

African Grandmothers: Rights and Resilience

African grandmothers are central to the life of their communities. After stepping in to care for orphaned grandchildren struggling with the loss of their parents, African grandmothers become parents anew in the midst of the HIV and AIDS pandemic. They put their grandchildren through school, harvest crops, create local savings and loan groups, teach others about HIV prevention and treatment, and participate in innovative income-generating programmes. They form support groups and deliver comfort and hope through home-based care. In the face of gender and age discrimination—and with few resources—African grandmothers are advocates for change. They share their expertise in their communities and on the international stage, pressing for their human rights and a hopeful future.

10 years of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

The Stephen Lewis Foundation launched the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in March 2006, in response to the emerging crisis faced by African grandmothers as they struggled to care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS. A decade later, the Campaign supports African community-based organizations that have developed programmes—with and for grandmothers—to transform lives and restore hope to their communities. In ten years more than $24 million has been raised.

Ten years of raising awareness in Canadian communities. Ten years of listening, learning and nurturing solidarity. Ten years of bearing witness to the expertise and resilience of African grandmothers all across sub-Saharan Africa. African grandmothers are changing the course of the pandemic in their communities and beyond. And the Canadian Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign will be with them every step of the way.
The Stephen Lewis Foundation: How We Work

The Stephen Lewis Foundation works with African community-based organizations that are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. They provide care and support to women, orphaned children, grandmothers and people living with HIV and AIDS. Since 2003, we have funded over 1100 initiatives, partnering with more than 300 grassroots organizations in the 15 African countries hardest hit by the pandemic. Community-based organizations are increasingly recognized as experts and agents of change by governments and international bodies. The Foundation’s philosophy has always been firmly rooted in the notion that the expertise needed to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa is found at the community level.

Partnership
We actively seek partnerships with community-based organizations that are accountable to their communities and inclusive of women and people living with HIV and AIDS. We maintain close contact in order to engender a relationship of trust, openness and respect for their priorities and expertise.

Holistic approach
Our partners know that turning the tide of AIDS requires a broad range of responses including physical, social, economic and emotional wellbeing.

Flexibility
We ensure that, as much as possible, donations are not earmarked to specific projects. This enables us to be responsive to the most pressing and changing needs of communities.

An experienced presence
We keep our overhead low and our focus on the grassroots — hence our decision not to have offices in Africa. Our team of experienced Field Representatives regularly visit our partners for on-site monitoring and evaluation.

Impact
Our grassroots partners have told us that impact, over time, results in individual and community resilience: managing stress and crisis, rebuilding families, renewing communities, and returning to a full life. Resilience is the real end game.

“To our Canadian sisters in the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, you are an important part of our story, and we feel your solidarity as we build momentum...We want the world to know how much we have achieved and how much we have overcome. We have breath to sing and energy to dance. We are moving forward! Join us!”

—African Grandmothers, Uganda Statement

“In our group, we marvel at what the African grandmothers have accomplished. But, I have to admit, we also talk about what ten years in the Grandmothers Campaign has meant to us: how we’ve stayed together, had fun, raised money, learned so much... and most important, maintained our deep feeling of connection.”

—Canadian Grandmother

To get involved, please call: 1-888-203-9990, extension zero or email campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

To learn more about the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, please visit: www.grandmotherscampaign.org.

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