



Alexis MacDonald/SLF



## Grandmothers and grandmothers groups across Canada share three goals.



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



**Raise awareness** in Canada 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/AIDS.



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

## Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

### *African Grandmothers: Leading the Way*

African grandmothers are central to the life of their communities. They teach about HIV prevention and treatment, harvest the crops and create income-generating programmes. They form support groups and deliver succour and hope through home-based care. African grandmothers have stepped in to care for orphaned grandchildren, putting them through school and helping them through the loss of their parents, even as they work through their own grief.

In the face of discrimination based on sex, age and HIV status, and with few resources, they are courageous advocates for their families and communities. Their collective voice is growing stronger—pressing for their human rights and a hopeful future. In the context of the AIDS pandemic, they are the undeniable experts.

### *The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in Canada: Acts of Solidarity*

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. What began with only a few groups of committed Canadian grandmothers has since evolved into a dynamic and responsive movement working to mobilize support in Canada for Africa's grandmothers.

Canadian grandmothers groups are tremendously active in their communities. They put on concerts, organize card tournaments, host community dinners, and sell jewellery. They speak to countless schools and local organizations. They garden, paint, write, sculpt, bake, cook and knit. They organize cycle tours and national walks—all to raise awareness and tens of millions of dollars for grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa.

## 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 worked with more than 300 community-based 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.

**Collaboration** We maintain close contact with our partners at the grassroots in order to facilitate a relationship of trust, openness and genuine partnership.

**Partnership** We actively seek partnerships with groups that are of, by and for their communities. They are deeply accountable to those communities and include women and people living with HIV and AIDS on their boards and staff.

**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.

To get involved, please call: **1-888-203-9990, extension zero** or email [campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org](mailto:campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org).

To learn more about the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, please visit: [www.grandmotherscampaign.org](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org).

***“To the international community we say: true sustainability is in the hands of grandmothers and other community activists. We will continue to stand in solidarity with one another throughout Africa and with our Canadian sisters. We are strong, we are visionary, we have faith and we are not alone. Together we will turn the tide of AIDS.”***

—African Grandmothers,  
Manzini Statement

***“With their courage and unwavering commitment to each other, African grandmothers remind us of the power of solidarity and sisterhood. In our 50s, 60s and 70s, I don't think any of us expected to find that deep sense of sisterhood and friendship with one another as well.”***

—Canadian Grandmother



Peter Bregg



the Stephen Lewis  
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