



Grand Connections

NEWS FROM YOUR REGIONAL LIAISON

I would like to reiterate my thanks for the thoughtful responses so many of you made to the survey I sent out a couple of months ago. In some ways I feel a little embarrassed because quite a few of you said you didn't want/need yet another person throwing you information. And yet here I am tossing out information as your brand new B.C Islands Regional Liaison person.

At the same time, this publication, which will arrive about once a month or after every conference call I participate in with the other liaison people and the SLF, will in many ways reflect your input. That's right, your input. The hope is that this publication will be a forum for you to get information to your colleagues in a way that will keep broadcast emails to a minimal level.

If at any time you decide that my job is at best not achieving its objectives and at worst is a pain somewhere in the anatomy, then I will be more than happy to give it up. Although it appears to be a tenured position, it doesn't have any pay attached to it. Of course, before we get to such a pass, we could all agree to talk about it and try to figure out if something/anything would work.

- Carol Judd



NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

On January 27 and 28 the new liaison people across the country gathered in Toronto for two days of meetings and briefings. I did not attend as I had already made out of town commitments before I was "hired". Someone made notes that I found interesting and am now passing along to you.

Our friend Aissatou provided some very interesting information that was new to me. She spoke about SLF projects in Africa. What follows are notes of that talk.

Aissatou – Projects In Africa

Update on new things:

- This past year the foundation has focused almost \$2,000,000 on housing for grandmothers – building and repairing. It hopes to be able to sustain that and of course it needs funding for that. Have been funding PEFO for the last six years. They started by funding the children to go to school. However,

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION CONT'D

these children had terrible housing – where will the children do homework, how do they wash their clothes/uniforms, how do they sleep at night if the roof is leaking all over them and they have to sit under a tree to try and stay dry.

- SLF provides support for vocational training for the young women and men who are being supported by the grandmothers. The grandmothers want more education for their grandchildren who are capable of going beyond primary school. They want their grandchildren to learn trades such as sewing, carpentry, bicycle repair, etc. They need the training and then a start-up kit so that they can then go out and start their own business. Grandmothers want sustainable investment. The grandmothers also want more home – based caregivers. They need glasses so that they can continue to do their sewing and their crafts.
- The SLF funds projects in a way that is flexible so that communities can decide on their own priorities. E.g. grandmothers initially thought they wanted to make charcoal, but this created health problems. The grandmothers were able to change their minds about their industry and they started a piggery instead. Funding is “sustainable” as long as it responds to the needs of the local communities. Projects need to be home grown. People with HIV/AIDS have specific considerations that need to be taken into account. Project personnel are the ones to decide what their needs are. E.g. the women who have been raped are taught crafts to help them re-build their self-esteem. It may be tempting to

identify an income generating project and want to support that, but these women are not ready for yet that. There are on-site field representatives who go out and talk to the projects and talk to the communities to find out what are the real needs. Field representatives are essential.

- Field representatives (FRS) are not based in all 15 countries that the SLF funds and are not all fulltime. The FRs have the skills to understand the issues within the context of HIV/AIDS.
- When proposals come in, they are assessed and then the FRs go out and visit the sites for a full day. They meet with the heads and brains of the organization. Then they go into the administrative process – how do you keep your books, what software are you using, what is your financial management system. Who are the workers, what do they do, do they have the kits that they need. Then they go out into the communities and see the workers in action. Are you doing prevention work and awareness raising. What is working well, what could be better, etc. Then they write a report, based on a template, and submit a report to the SLF. The SLF looks at all of the proposals and prioritizes. The SLF does not have regional offices – they add to the administrative costs.
- None of the projects have reached a level of complete independence. However, many projects have grown and mushroomed and branched out to do more and more work with the same amount of money. Projects that started out with 30 grandmothers are now reaching 300 grandmothers.

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION CONT'D

Accountability of African Projects:

- There is no 3rd party involved. To qualify, a proposal must come from a valid non-profit organization.
- They send copies of their bank statements. The funds go directly to the organization being funded. The transfer is electronic and written documentation is required (technical checks and balances).
- Field representatives visit before, during and after the project. Every organization has to have an accountant (finance manager). The SLF will pay salaries. They have program officers who provide ongoing conversations with the projects. The SLF maintains close personal contact.
- Annual audited statement available on the Revenue Canada (CRA) web site.
- All the money raised by the grandmothers goes to grandmothers projects in Africa and can be tracked.

After Aissatou, Joanna talked about the role of the new liaison people.

Liaison responsibilities

The liaison role is not to take on new responsibilities but to be the connection between the region and the SLF.

1. Improve Connections to the African grandmothers – know the impact of our work, e.g., share stories, videos, written materials, follow up to the Caravan. Every two years there will be a concerted effort to link.

2. Support connections with each other. How can we nourish this in a real way. Building relationships is a powerful part of the grandmother movement. Share regional newsletters, sharing regional resources, identify key resources, people. Connections to National Advocacy committee.
3. Deeper connection with the SLF (related to #1). Conference calls, attending regional gatherings, responding to speakers' requests.

Interesting tidbit: The SLF fiscal year starts July 1.

As usual, many events are happening in our region, with one of the biggest events coming up in June.

National Walk

You have just received a notice of this year's national walk from Joan Wenman, B.C. Islands representative on the national organizing committee. Please note in particular that if your grandmother group decides to participate you have a range of weekends to hold your walk.

All forms, such as the pledge and registration forms, a summary of Stride to Turn the Tide, a new pamphlet that can be used in your community, the planning handbook, the scarf purchasing form, etc. can be found online at:

www.grandmotherscampaign.org/nationalwalk.html

Please get back to Joan as soon as possible with a contact person, whether you want to host a walk or whether you want to join in a walk another group is hosting, and how many scarves you want (at \$10 each) as her recent notice indicates.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Diane Quinn from Oceanside Grannies sent this poster an International Women's Day event in Parksville:



**COME CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
WITH THE
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM,
(CFUW/PQ)**

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

1:15pm to 4:30pm

KNOX UNITED CHURCH

345 PYM STREET, PARKSVILLE

Power Point Presentation: Jean Way
"Hand in Hand with African Grandmothers"
Guest Speaker: Annalee Lepp, Chair of Women's Studies at the
University of Victoria

**Bazaar - Global Outreach International Items
&
Grandmothers to Grandmothers Crafts
KUBANA MARIMBA BAND, REFRESHMENTS, DOOR PRIZES
Admission by Donation**

CFUW proceeds will go to CARE Canada's initiative 'Empowering Women in Zambia' Bazaar proceeds to Global Outreach education for girls & Stephen Lewis Foundation

NEWS FROM THE REGION CONT'D

Joan Wenman of the Victoria Grandmothers for Africa sent the following poster. It advertizes two events in Victoria. Most of you have already seen the textile art, but perhaps some of you would still like to get a ticket to the Gala Dinner and auction of the textile art (with Stephen Lewis as speaker) on March 12:

Turning the Tide . . . One Ripple at a Time *Fundraiser with Stephen Lewis*

Gala Dinner & Textile Art Auction
Speaker: Stephen Lewis

Emcee: Sheryl MacKay, CBC Radio
March 12, 2011
Victoria Conference Centre
5:00 p.m. Silent Auction & Cash Bar
6:00 p.m. Dinner and Speaker
After dinner: Textile Art Live Auction

Preview exhibit of textile art

Martin Batchelor Gallery
712 Cormorant, Victoria BC
February 26 to March 10, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to
Saturday
Contact: 43patgv@telus.net

Opening reception for exhibit

February 26 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.



Proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support projects in Africa assisting grandmothers, families, and communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

Tickets: Tickets for the Gala dinner are \$100.00 per person, or \$800.00 for a reserved table for 8 people
Email vg4agalatickets@gmail.com , or
Call 250-532-9038
Tickets not available at the door.

Accommodation: Special hotel rates available.
For details, see
<http://www.victoriagrandmothersforafrica.ca>