



Grand Connections

NEWS FROM YOUR REGIONAL LIAISON

The idea of Grand Connections is to connect only when we have something to connect about. During the time the liaison people across the country are newbies, Joanna Henry of the Foundation will be conducting conference calls every two weeks, so for the time being I intend to update the Islands with the same frequency. Soon, however, we will hear from the Foundation less often, and you will begin to get Grand Connections on a less frequent basis.

I would love to include announcements of events that you are hosting, and I rely on you to send your information to me to pass on. In addition, if you have anything on your mind, please feel that this publication can be a forum for discussion. In other words, it is yours much more than it is mine. I see myself more as a connector than an originator.

- Carol Judd

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

The most exciting news out of the Stephen Lewis Foundation right now is that they are developing a new website, which they hope will be much easier to use. The new website should be ready to launch by the end of March.

New Grandmothers Campaign Website



The next step will be to design a new Grandmothers Campaign website specifically for grandmothers groups. They want it to be an opportunity to network, share

ideas, items for sale and to become an archive for workshops and other events that have taken place across the country.

The Foundation wants feedback within two weeks from each region (i.e., us) about what we would like to find on this new website. Participants in the conference calls were asked to provide a tentative and provisional list of our ideas by the end of this week.

Here are a few suggestions that I thought of:

- Have a special and discrete section in the website for each region so that people within that region can communicate with each other through their specific part of the website.
- Have a section for up-to-date news from the foundation about issues that affect grandmother groups across the country.

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION CONT'D

- Provide a user-friendly process for making on-line donations in a way that they easily can be "credited" to an individual group.
- Have a section for forms, information kits, etc. that is updated regularly and will be useful to all grandmother groups.

I am looking forward to hearing from you about what you think is needed on this website (and what you think of my suggestions). This is your chance to provide input into this important project. I hope you will share your ideas.

Financial Information

Some participants in the liaison conference call said Grandmother groups want to know how much the Grandmothers campaign is raising relative to the Foundation as a whole. Joanna replied that at the moment, Grandmother Groups show up in their books as providing only part of the donations to the Grandmothers Campaign because donations that come directly to the Foundation often do not include enough information for the Foundation to credit the donation to a particular group. A new database is in the works, which may be able to go some way to addressing this.

Does our region want regular (perhaps quarterly) reports on funds sent to the Foundation from our region (whether or not the donations come from a particular grandmother group)?

Training Kits

Helen Silbiger is contemplating developing support/training packages in which

grandmother groups can find information and suggestions for various volunteer positions, including education committees and treasurers. **They are looking for point form ideas from the regions about what should be in Helen's kit.** Please provide your ideas to me and I'll pass them on for you.

ISLAND NEWS & EVENTS

Help!

Vancouver Island's plaque commemorating the Rosemary Brown award that the B.C. Grandmother Campaign won in 2009 for our "powerful voice...for the human rights for all the women and children in Africa" is missing. We know it is somewhere, warm and safe, but where? It is urgently needed for the Gala Dinner and Textile Art Auction, March 12. If you know where it is please get in touch with Diane Quinn (dquinnca@hotmail.com) immediately. Once its travels around the Island ends, the plaque will find a permanent home with the NanGo Grannies in Nanaimo. You may know that the Mainland Grandmothers have their own plaque in honour of this shared award.

National Walk

Joan Wenman, the Islands representative on the national organizing committee, sent out a notice to all groups last month asking for a reply as to whether their groups will be participating in the Stride to Turn the Tide walk. She wants to remind everyone that 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

Campbell River, Denman Island and Victoria grandmothers have already told Joan they will be hosting walks. No one has yet said that their group will travel to participate in a walk that another granny group is organizing. As usual, time is "walking" on so please let her know whether your group is in or out.

There is no pressure from the Foundation to participate. Participation is voluntary but the national organizers and the Foundation hope the walk will raise \$1,000,000 this year, an amazing amount of money! They also see the walk as a great way to get our message out to the community. The bottom line is we all do what we can and that is all we can do.

