



Grand Connections

NEWS FROM YOUR REGIONAL LIAISON

I'll start by trying to answer the question about forms Lorraine Waring sent from the Glacier Grannies. "I have been trying to get the forms you refer to at the SLF website and I can't find anything. Also, who would we send the Event Registration Form to?"

If the SLF website hasn't worked for you lately it may be because you tried to use it while it was being re-designed to make it easier to use.

This morning I found the forms by going to the foundation website, www.stephenlewisfoundation.org. Click on the Grandmothers Campaign logo. Once there you will see a left sidebar titled "Grandmothers to Grandmothers." Click on "Resources." This will present a drop-down menu. Click on "Forms and Documents," and you will find forms that are titled, Grandmothers Event Letter of Understanding; Grandmothers Funds Submission form; and Grandmothers Donation form. They are all available in Word format.

You should send the forms to Janet Solberg at the Foundation, either through email at community@stephenlewisfoundation.org or by phone at 1-888-203-9990.

The forms can also be found by going directly to the Grandmothers' Campaign website

(www.grandmotherscampaign.org), but it seems to kick you back to the main website for the forms.

-Carol Judd

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

The following isn't quite news from the Foundation, but it is news about a Foundation project that Georgia Bell, a grandmother from Canmore, visited in January. Thanks to Linda Grace for sharing this wonderful blog entry.

"...Phoebe Education Fund for Orphans just outside Jinja (Uganda). It is an initiative supported in part by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. And what a fabulous opportunity; an opportunity created by Peggy's advocacy with the SLF. Everything they say and I see lifts my spirits.

The staff of PEHO (12) tell us that SLF funding gives them "time to think" about the needs and to combine this with their practical experience to create solutions to the issues.

PEHO was started by three brothers, orphans themselves, who were educated in Europe. They came back to begin the project, named for their mother, Phoebe. They began with microcredit for women and providing school fees and enrichment

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION CONT'D

activities for orphans and vulnerable children, but were confronted with many orphans being cared for by grandmothers whose futures were regularly dashed as the rains would wash out their homes with illness the result. They expanded their mandate to the economic empowerment of the whole household; they recognized that there were no programs (government or otherwise) for the caregivers of the orphans. So, they address the needs holistically – housing, health, education, livelihood, and economic development, with the grandmothers and children at the centre. They believe that prioritizing the grandmothers who care can enable them to raise healthy, productive grandchildren who will, in turn, care for the aging grandmothers.

They have an organic farm school for grandmothers, who learn how to care for livestock. They are given pigs – and two of their first litter is contributed back to the farm to keep the herd going for other grandmothers. They learn agricultural practices to supplement their diets. And – the most impressive – SLF funding has enabled them to import a brick-making machine, which makes bricks under pressure, instead of by firing them, which uses up precious forest/firewood. This is the donation of the SLF, and it means they have an economic base. They use the bricks to build houses with the grandmothers – “The previous house was a symbol of suffering and I can now focus on other challenges”. There are 200 grandmothers/PLWHA in the local area that needs houses, and they have built 60 so far at a cost of \$3500 each.

But it is when we visit the grandmothers in their villages that the differences between

this and the other villages/projects I have seen are evident. Before we disembark from the bus, they are singing. We are welcomed by a throng of vibrantly dressed women with hugs, tears, dancing, singing and drumming. It is the warmest, most joyous welcome I have ever experienced. We Canadian grandmothers are each given a Ugandan name, and welcomed individually by our name-sisters. We are welcomed officially by a very articulate woman, to whom I have the chance to reply for the group. Then we also have an opportunity to contribute to the building of a brick house – mixing mortar, setting the bricks - and trying to match their skill. The grandmothers and their orphans will have title to their new homes.

They are organized to invest surplus income from the farm to contribute to a fund to provide for medicines for all – a rudimentary system of medicare. They feed us – mounds of rice, chicken, vegetables – and we relax in the makeshift shade. I feel so happy to be here. It feels right – a project that is holistic, locally driven, empowering, sustainable, woman-centered. It builds civil society, lessens dependence, creates self-regulating communities.”

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Kazuri Jewellery

Several Islands groups held Kazuri Jewellery sales last year. Please share the congratulations about the incredible earnings this jewellery brought countrywide. I know some of us are hoping to sell it again this year. The following report may get your creative juices going about an event you might host.

“2010 report from Kazuri Jewellery provided by Marg Thompson, Peggy Edwards, Larry Davidson and Lori Blinn:

NEWS FROM THE REGION CONT'D

The Grandmother Connection (KJGC).

Thanks to grandmother groups all across the country, it was a great year. Kazuri Jewellery: The Grandmother Connection raised \$146,395.00 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation on behalf of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Sixty groups and some "grandmother" friends of the movement hosted over 180 events from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and the Yukon. Together, we helped employ over 300 grandmothers and single mothers in Nairobi in a fair trade workshop that pays above average wages and provides medical benefits to its workers and their children. Women across Canada purchased beautiful handmade jewellery at good prices, including us! (How many necklaces does one woman need? Don't ask...) It doesn't get much better than this! Any interest or requests for information about becoming a host should be addressed to Lori Blinn, lblinn.sevans@rogers.com"



National Walk

Grandmother Groups all across the country are getting ready for the 2011 Grandmothers to Grandmothers *Stride to Turn The Tide* National Walk. This is an opportunity for all grandmothers to come

together to show their solidarity in joining hands – demonstrating to ourselves, our community and Canada that we are walking together to increase the awareness of the incredible challenges that the grandmothers and orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa face on a daily basis.

The following are Islands grandmother groups that have told Joan Wenman wenmenj@shaw.ca, the Islands Representative to the National Walk Committee, that they are participating in the National Walk. If your group is planning to walk but isn't listed here, Joan would appreciate your letting her know:

- Campbell River with Merville Grand Mothers, May 15
- Oceanside (Parksville) with NanGos, May 29
- Victoria Grandmothers for Africa, June 11
- Denman Island, no date provided.

For information about a walk near you, please contact the appropriate grandmother group.

The new on-line pledge process for the walk is up and running. Many of us used the on-line process last year, and it resulted in a huge increase in donations. The "ask" reaches many more people than we could ever do face-to-face. It might be a good idea for one designated member in your group to take on the task of setting up your team and its members for you. You are also welcome to get in touch with the following individuals if you have any questions:

Helen Silbiger (Stephen Lewis Foundation)
Email:

hsilbiger@stephenlewisfoundation.org

Tel: 416-533-9292 x230

Toll-free: 1-888-203-9990 x230

NEWS FROM THE REGION CONT'D

Lorraine Green

Email: lorraineegreen@bell.net

Tel: 905-842-3751

Helen Silbiger has kindly outlined some "Top Tips" that are included in the Online Fundraising Guide on the National Walk webpage. Check it out at:

www.grandmotherscampaign.org/nationalwalk.html

Fundraising Cycling Tour

Victoria Grandmothers for Africa are planning the next fundraising cycle tour from Campbell River to Victoria. This is the fifth year for this most successful ride, which has generated more than \$150,000 over the past four years. The dates for this year's ride are Sept 9 -11, meeting in Campbell River in the late afternoon on the 8th.

As well as raising funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the cyclists, who come from the Islands and Lower Mainland, enjoy great camaraderie in beautiful Vancouver Island scenery as well as tremendous encouragement from Island Grandmothers along the route. The number of participants will be limited. Completed registrations and fee will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Last year's ride cost \$220 per person, and organizers hope to keep the registration fee close to that amount. This fee covers three nights' accommodation, one dinner, three lunches and a breakfast, as well as a number of snacks along the way. Other dinners, enjoyed in local restaurants, are the responsibility of the participants. The route may change slightly this year, while our overnight stops will be in the same locations. Please contact Pat Mayhill by

phone at 250-592-5987 or by email at mayhill@telus.net for more information.

Gathering of Grandmothers

The Glacier Grannies are hosting a gathering of grandmother groups on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, Saturday, September 24, 2011 with activities starting about 9 am and finishing about 3:30 pm. The place is Courtenay, at the Filberg Centre and the Glacier Grannies will be serving a lunch. Members will billet anyone from out of town who would like to arrive the night before.

The purpose of a "Gathering" is to reinvigorate ourselves by sharing fundraising ideas, products, lobbying strategies and information. Please mark you calendars and plan to attend.

Lorraine Waring, co-chair Glacier Grannies, is still looking for feedback as to what you would like to hear and learn at their Gathering. She can be reached by email at lgwaring@yahoo.com or by phone at 250-703-4734. Hopefully most of the agenda, speakers, and workshops could be organized before the end of June.

Grand Comments

Thanks to Lorraine Waring who sent the following very encouraging feedback. To her goes the last word –

"Yesterday (April 11), I went to the Bridge Luncheon in Parksville. It was very successful and I learned how it is done. I went because of the notice in your newsletter."

