The chief news that hasn’t already been sent out by someone else concerns the National Walk. So far the Foundation has received more than $56,000 nationwide. Since a local walk event can take place any weekend until June 12, the national organizers are well on the way to having a highly successful event.

Last weekend Campbell River hosted a walk in which Merville Grand Mothers and the Glacier Grannies of Courtenay/Comox also participated. Together the 54 participants logged a total of 140 kms in solidarity with their African sisters. Congratulations!

Oceanside (Parksville) will walk with the NanGo Grannies (Nanaimo) on May 29, Victoria Grandmothers for Africa, June 11 and Denman Island on June 12. All of these walks will welcome all comers. May all of you have a successful walk event with great weather and a great turn out.

The Victoria walk will include staff and residents from our national sponsor, Revera Retirement Living, who are in a competition amongst their various locations nationwide to raise money for the cause.

This year materials were translated into French so that Quebec grandmothers could participate. Beatrice Tellier, a Victoria grandmother who is a retired translator, provided all translations.

Attached at the end of the newsletter is a survey that national organizers would like each walk to submit as feedback to the chair of the walk. Please fill it in after your walk and send it to the location indicated. It will provide valuable feedback to the organizers.

- Carol Judd

Joanna Henry reports that sadly, the Nelson Mandela’s Children Fund (NMCF) is closing their doors in Canada on June 30th and is encouraging their donors to redirect their support to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. NMCF (Canada) has raised funds here since 1998 in support of programs in South Africa that improve the well-being of children made vulnerable by poverty, abuse, disability and HIV and AIDS. Their head office in South Africa made a decision to direct their support and efforts to advocacy and lobbying for child-friendly legislation and policies, and so has decided to close affiliate offices in Canada, the Netherlands, France, Spain and Australia. In Canada they have decided to encourage their donors to transfer their support to the Stephen Lewis Foundation due to the Foundation’s long collaboration and partnership and close relationship between Nelson and Stephen.
Ilana Landsberg-Lewis noted “Nelson Mandela’s life achievements stand as a monument to social justice, freedom, reconciliation and advocacy for the children and youth. The Stephen Lewis Foundation is honored to be asked to continue the work of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund (Canada).”

Feel free to direct any questions from grandmothers to Joanna and any questions from the general public or the media to Nikki Gentles:
ngentles@stephenlewisfoundation.org

I’d also like to pass on a sample of fundraising projects that have been undertaken. Marjorie Kort put this list of fundraiser together for a Grannyfest workshop and shared it with other liaison grandmothers. Of course, Islands grandmothers have also thought up many interesting and unique fundraising events, a few of which are listed here.

**Bay Grandmothers Choir Fest**
Co-emceed with a Granny and the Pastor. 500 in attendance.
**Amount Raised:** $5,000  
**Contact:** Lois Mann  
lmann@bellaliant.net

**Annual Luncheon**
Serve a simple menu – peanut soup, homemade rolls, fruit platter, and macaroons. Also have a craft table, bake sale and Kazuri Jewellery sale. Keep admission limited to 100 people.
**Amount Raised:** $12,000 (5,000 matched by Bank of Nova Scotia)  
**Contact:** Susan Bagley  
susanbagley@hotmail.com

**Fashion Show**
Grannies are the models, lots of fun. Serve extra decadent homemade desserts.
**Amount Raised:** $4,000  
**Contact:** Sandy Larsen  
milt@milt.ca

**Red Shoelace Campaign**
The Red Shoelace Campaign is a good way to get students of any age involved. The event reported on was promoted in high schools. The kids bought a red shoelace for $2 and wore it in a place that encouraged others to ask why they were wearing a red shoelace. Ten high schools participated in the weeklong event, hosting a variety concert, dodge ball tournament, bake sales, movie nights, etc.
**Amount Raised:** $15,000 among 10 schools.  
**Contact:** Linda Wills  
lwills@ns.sympatico.ca (905) 637-1850

**Blooms for Africa Garden Tour**
This event has been increasingly successful for the last four years. Last year it was an evening/nite event. Tickets are $20 each and give participants a passport with access to 10 - 12 private gardens around the City (Burlington/Hamilton). The event is held over two days on a weekend in July.
**Amount raised:** $8,000  
**Contact:** Ann Howarth  
annhowarth@sympatico.ca

**Vancouver Island Bicycle Tour**
Cyclists bicycle from Campbell River to Victoria, 275 kms., in three days. Cyclists collect pledges and pay their own way. Cyclists enjoy food and cheers from Grandmother groups along the route, camaraderie and beautiful scenery.
**Amount raised:** $150,000 over four years.  
**Contact:** Christine Scott  
cmscott05@gmail.com
Petawawa Grannies Pashmina Shawl Sale
Shawls are purchased for $5 from a supplier in Toronto and then sold for $10. Easy money. Some are sold in commercial outlets at no charge.
Amount Raised: Not available.
Contact: Hilda Young hyoung7@cogeco.ca

Grandmother’s Necklace
An anthology of stories and poems created in honour of grandmothers, compiled and edited by one of the Petawawa Grannies Patricia Ann Elford. Launched in Feb. 2010.
Amount Raised: $7000
Contact: Patricia Ann Elford granniesnecklace@hotmail.com

Granny Spatulas
A local artist makes these and donates them so they are 100% profit.
Amount Raised: $4000
Contact: Wanda Maurais dw.maurais@sympatico.ca

Loonie/Twoonie Day
On Mother’s Day in church, the Riverside Grannies asks the congregation to donate a loonie for every grandchild and a twoonie for every great grandchild.
Amount Raised: $1000 easy money!
Contact: Wanda Maurais dw.maurais@sympatico.ca

African Evening Fundraising Dinner
An evening event featuring a dinner with a speaker and some entertainment, and a silent auction and raffle.
Amount Raised: $30,000
Contact: Sheila Fahlman (306) 781-2946 sfahlman@sasktel.net

Kilimanjaro Grannies
Five Grannies climbed mount Kilimanjaro (19,340 ft) and the produced a book documenting their adventures with photos.
Amount Raised: $78,336
Contact: Gizelle Lalonde Mansfield gcmansfield@quantimatics.com www.kiligrannies.com

Speaking of Grandmothers
Concert of stories, songs, poems and jokes about grandmothers, written and performed by professionals and amateurs. Performed at the NAC Second Stage informal setting – small tables and candlelight.
Amount Raised: $3,000
Contact: Lorraine Hopkins

You readers own the news from the region. Don’t forget to send me your news so I can share it with everyone else.

Orleen McLulich from VG4A sent the following: “At our Education Committee presentation last Saturday we used the redesigned Stephen Lewis Foundation website as an educational tool for our talk. It truly is worthwhile to spend some time exploring it.”

As reported in the last Grand Connections, the Grandmothers’ Campaign website is also in the process of being updated, so look for that in the next little while as well, and in the meantime, don’t forget to take a look at the changes to the SLF website.
NEWS FROM THE REGION CONT’D

Karen Wasilenchuk has shared these photos from the recent very successful walk in Campbell River reported on above. Although it was cold, the rain held off and participants thoroughly enjoyed their outing in support of African grandmothers.
Between May 14, 2011 and June 12, 2011 grandmother groups from across Canada will have an opportunity to participate in *STRIDE to Turn the Tide*. We would like to hear from you on what you believe went well in the walk and what areas need improvement.

Each grandmother group is encouraged to provide us with feedback (*one survey to be submitted per group*) on or before **June 30, 2011**. Your survey is to be sent by email (pfarron3@telus.net) or to the National Walk office, 179 Morris, Canmore, Alberta T1W 2W7.

| GRANDMOTHER GROUP: |  |
| LOCATION (Town / City / Province): |  |
| WALK DATE: |  |
| NAME & PHONE NUMBER OF KEY CONTACT: |  |

**COMMUNICATION**

Was the communication about the walk clear?  Yes __ No __

**NATIONAL WALK WEBPAGE**

Did you access the national walk webpage?  Yes __ No __

Was the webpage clear and easy to use?  Yes __ No __

**REGISTRATION**

Was the registration process clear and easy to use?  Yes __ No __

**PLEDGE PROCESS**

Was the “on-line” pledge process clear and easy to use?  Yes __ No __

Was the “paper” pledge process clear and easy to use?  Yes __ No __

**NATIONAL WALK 2012**

Should we continue to hold a national walk?  Yes __ No __

**COMMENTS:** Please provide any comments (in point form) on
- what went well in the central organizing of the walk and/or what needs improvement
- what unique activity you incorporated into your walk for others to learn from

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.  Your feedback will truly help us in determining next steps.  Please feel free to email me if you would like to discuss this further.

Pamela Farron
Chair, National Walk Committee, pfarron3@telus.net