

Shore to Shore



Atlantic Canada's Newsletter
Grandmother to Grandmother Campaign

January 2013

5th Issue

We open this issue with a letter from Stephen Lewis, found in the 2012 Fall Edition of Grassroots, in case you haven't had the opportunity to read it. We urge you to read the interviews with **Dr. Maria Musoke, Netty Musanhu, Mpumi Zondi and Mercy Chidi** as well.



A Message from Stephen Lewis

Oddly enough, these few words are prompted by the fascinating feature article that adorns the pages of this issue of Grassroots. I get to see the layout and content of each issue a little in advance, and in this instance I was immensely taken with the impressive interviews with four grassroots, frontline women commenting on the role of women in the pandemic. If that's called tooting our own horn, then tooting I am. The comments and observations in the article reaffirm, in my mind, one of the great tragedies of the AIDS pandemic: we've made notable progress in a whole host of areas, but we've failed lamentably to respond adequately to women. This is especially true of Africa. Of the more than 23 million people infected, 60% are women. And in the age range fifteen to twenty-four, fully 75% are women and girls. Yet, in the annals of the international response, women are unconsciously neglected.

Let me provide four brief examples.

First, the prevention of "vertical transmission"; that is, the prevention of transmission of the virus from mother to child during pregnancy, birth and breast-feeding. Up until this last year, the entire focus has been on saving the infant – with the HIV-positive mother as a mere addendum. The new clarion call is titled "The Elimination of Pediatric AIDS and Keeping Mothers Alive." The "keeping mothers alive" bit was an eleventh-hour addition.

Second, the crisis of adolescent girls. Not only are they largely excluded from secondary school because they can't afford the school fees, and therefore don't get a chance to learn from life skill classes, but they have virtually no access to sexual and reproductive health care. It's a true scandal.

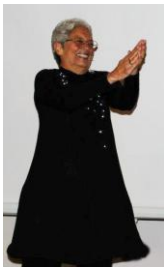
Third, the contagion of sexual violence. It can be seen from the four women interviewed in this issue of Grassroots that sexual violence and rape exact an ever-greater toll. The brutality of the rapes transmits the virus: we don't have exact figures, but the transmission is everywhere noted. And we're not talking only of rape in conflict settings like the Congo; we're talking of politically-orchestrated rape, marital rape, intimate partner rape, gang rape... the brazen and terrifying exercise of male power: the ultimate example of gender inequality.

Finally, it's worth recounting an incident that occurred at the International AIDS Conference held in Washington in July. There was a major session to look at the future disposition of funds to combat HIV/AIDS. There were eleven auspicious speakers: eleven men. It just never ends. The arrogant role of patriarchy dooms the lives of women.

What makes it all so painful is the way women sustain entire communities and countries, grandmothers looking after orphans, women doing home-based care, tilling the fields, tending to the family, generally being the life-blood of the society.

It's an insufferable truth that after thirty years of the pandemic, women are still marginalized, with catastrophic results. In our own small way, the Foundation is determined to reverse that ugly reality.

Stephen Lewis
Chair of the Board
Stephen Lewis Foundation



On the front page of our last issue of Shore to Shore, we told you that Paola Gianturco, author and photojournalist was coming to town to talk about her book, *Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon* on October 25th, 2012. She showed her slides to us at the Potter Auditorium, Kenneth Rowe Building of Dalhousie University. She was so eloquent when she spoke of the women she has visited around the world and she shared their unique stories. To say she absolutely wowed everyone who came out to hear her is an understatement. Her grand finale was an 'electric dress' which was a lot of fun and summed up her words and warm personality. She tirelessly signed her books for those present. We were delighted she came to visit.

Great News

Winnie Kwak is the new Grandmother Regional Co-Liaison, Atlantic and will be attending the new Liaison's meetings in Toronto at the SLF office later in February. She will continue in this position until September 2013, when she becomes the Liaison and another Co-Liaison will be sought to work with Winnie. Winnie Kwak jankwak@eastlink.ca Linda Wills will continue as Liaison until September 2013, and then plans to concentrate her efforts in starting new groups in the Atlantic region, with your assistance.

Ruth Anne Sutherland is the new Speaker's Bureau Co-ordinator for the Atlantic Region. If you know of an organization, or potential Grandmother Group who would like a speaker, please contact Ruth Anne Sutherland rasutherland@ns.sympatico.ca It is wonderful to have these two dedicated grandmothers come forward, and I know you join me in wishing them success in all they do for the G2G Campaign.

We would still like to find someone who would be interested in becoming the new Shore to Shore **editor**, our electronic newsletter that is published twice a year

Atlantic Gathering, Scott Manor House, Bedford, N.S., the morning of October 26th 2012

Thank you to the Bedford Grandmothers for their hospitality and treats for the morning. It was an excellent facility to get together with Grandmothers from Nova Scotia, PEI and Newfoundland. The topics for the morning were:

Topic One: *What actions can the Atlantic Grandmothers take at the Regional level to help build the organization?*

Some ideas generated on Topic One:

- expand on the work of regional liaison
- hold conference calls quarterly
- alternate location of yearly gathering
- closer collaboration among groups- e.g., sharing speakers, fundraising
- have a regional co-liaison
- collaborate on larger fundraising projects (such as biking event)
- build partnerships with outside groups- e.g., quilters, bikers, rug hookers, knitters,
- hold a regional grandmothers' antiques sale
- newsletter, speakers bureau are vital links

Topic Two: *How can we best build groups at the local level?*

- find a key person with 2 strong friends
- call a meeting
- publicize the meeting
- bring a speaker from the Speakers' Bureau
- keep list of attendees
- use SLF and existing grandmothers' contacts
- publicize in newsletters, local media
- reach out to existing women's groups
- emphasize flexibility
- talk at universities, schools, musicians
- from initial meeting determine what would work for the group – what type of event
- make connections with other G2G groups – regional meetings, events
- make connection to GRAN

Part B: And how can we maintain existing groups?

- guilt free- no pressure; people can come and go as their lives change
- recognize times when we need to encourage members to get involved
- identify individual skills, interests
- emphasize importance of each person's contribution
- recognize time when pivot person needs relief
- regional meetings/contacts
- what is our mission
- leadership skills development/potential
- inter-group cooperation-events, fundraisers

A special thank you to Dr. Don Shiner, Associate Professor of Marketing at Mount Saint Vincent University, who facilitated the morning. Dr. Shiner's summation, is that the G2G Campaign has "a really great brand" particularly from a marketing perspective. We have good networks that we should continue to tap into. If we persevere in our journey to build new groups all those other things we are striving to attain will come with the growth of our numbers.

Events Coming Up Nationally and Locally

CommUNITY & JazzEast – February 2nd A night of words and music, for more info visit www.jazzeast.com

"Aid vs. HIV/AIDS: Praise for Grandmothers and the Place of Activism in Global Health". February 5th, 4:30 – 6:00_Life Sciences Common Area: C242, Dalhousie University, by Dr. Robert Huish. Grandmothers are invited. There is a lot of seating space.

ACTS for AIDS, February 13, 2013 Prince Andrew High School, Dartmouth Ten Halifax high schools will collaborate and compete to raise \$1000.00 each, with all proceeds going to the SLF. The evening includes a competition among the local high schools for the best performance of the night. Judges from local radio and television stations will decide which school act gets to bring home the trophy

Women's Wellness Expo 2013 – May 24, 25, 26th at Cole Harbour Place. For more information visit <http://womenswellbeingexpo.com/> If any of you are travelling in Canada in the next few months I invite you to go to the <http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/> website, and click on **Upcoming Events** on the right hand side which will take you to a calendar of events Grandmother groups are holding in various towns and cities. You might like to join them. **African Grandmothers Tribunal,** on Sunday May 26, 2013 in Vancouver, British Columbia for more details see below.

GRAN

Norma Carey, Cluster Leader, Atlantic

Some of you may already have signed the on-line petition to **Reverse the Cuts** to CIDA, organized by Results Canada. If you haven't, or if you can think of friends who might be interested, we want to let you know that the petition is still very active and seeking more support. The deadline for signatures is **Feb. 12**. Our current government's declining commitment to international development has translated into a projected \$319 million cut to CIDA funding over the next 3 years. For an individual Canadian, this amounts to less than \$3.00 a year, but for grandmothers in Sub-Saharan Africa, and others, these cuts will carry real impact.

GRAN has joined 40 other civil society organizations backing the Results Canada Campaign to urge the restoration of these funds to the 2013 Government Budget.

Please Act Now! The petition can be signed at www.reversethecuts.ca or:

<https://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/prime-minister-stephen-harper-reverse-the-cuts-to-international-development>

Bill C-398 may have died, but the issues are still alive, and so are we.

Thanks!

Tantramar Association of Grandmothers/others, Sackville, NB (TAG)



Some of the many TAG members who made the Dare to Dine Soup Night happen: (left to right): Nancy Burridge, Anne Pirie, Jane Drover, Beth Briscoe, Donna McLellan, Heather Patterson, Ruth Buckinger, Shirley Oliver, Brenda Allen.

The highlight of the fall for the Tantramar Association of Grandmothers/others was the third annual Dare to Dine Grandmothers soup night, held during Sackville's Midnight Madness on a Friday evening leading up to Christmas. Despite having a new location for the event this year, the evening was a great success and has become an event people now await as part of the annual Midnight Madness. Once again this year, Heather Patterson arranged to have a sale of the lovely Kazuri jewelry during the Dare to Dine evening. Also thanks to Shirley Oliver, our group's very enthusiastic penny collector and master roller, we have been very successful with our pennies and there is more to come in the next couple of weeks! Over the winter, the members of our Education Committee expect to be involved in some classroom awareness sessions and other special events in our local schools and possibly, once again in the annual international student banquet at Mount Allison University.

Rockingham Grandmothers

During the past few months the Rockingham Grannies have been testing our new structure and meeting location. We moved from our first home, Rockingham United Church to the Sobeyes Community Room on Larry Uteck Dr. We had 2 interesting speakers and were pleased to have members of other groups attend one of these. Our annual daylily sale was a great success, especially since 6 groups in the area participated this year. Sybil and Chris Bryant's annual Dare to Dine on December 1st was a huge hit and we continue to sell doggie bandanas at Clayton Park Veterinary Hospital. We shared a table with the Dartmouth Grandmothers at St Andrews United Church Fair Trade Sale, arranged by Jacqui Sumarah of Annie's Grannies. The theme for 2013 is increased collaboration with other groups to be more effective in our efforts.

Bedford Grandmothers

Our group meets periodically at the Scott Manor House in Bedford which provides a warm and comfortable location for our fall/winter activities. We hosted the Atlantic Regional Meeting at the Manor on Oct 26 and attended the presentation by Paola Gianturco the previous evening. Bedford Players generously gave us 50 tickets to sell to their production Oct 25/26 with all proceeds for SLF (Grans). The Players have again offered tickets for the April performance "Mousetrap" which will help with spring fundraising. Members participated in "the Dare to Dine" and one member hosted two luncheons raising substantial donations from kind

friends. Knitters made squares for the "yarn bomb" tree in Uganda recruiting friends to help. Like our African Grandmothers, we gathered for a fun event by having a Christmas potluck at a member's home in December. Marilyn Sceles, Coordinator

Dartmouth Grandmothers

It was a busy fall season for our group. For the past few years we have taken advantage of the fund raising opportunity with selling tickets for the Dartmouth Players musical dress rehearsal - it was a great success.

We also had a very successful 2nd annual craft fair at the Finley Centre the next day there was a soup luncheon at St. James United Church, Dartmouth - it was a busy weekend.

We look forward to getting together again in February and starting up another successful year in our efforts for our African Grandmothers



G'Ma Circle of Grandmothers, Charlottetown, PEI

A few of our group members attended the Book Review October 25 in Halifax for the book Grandmother Power, A Global Phenomenon written by Paola Gianturco. We have our 3rd annual **Yarn & Fabric Sale** scheduled for March 9, 2013. This always turns out to be a great event. We are looking forward to a very productive 2013.

The Bay Grandmothers

Stan Carew and 'Deputy' Doug Barron joined us for a fundraiser in September. Their trial run of the 'Weekend Mornings on the Road' format proved to be very popular with the audience. While Stan provided most of the musical selections, Doug joined in the story telling and also displayed his own musical talents. Duke the Studio Stallion was unfortunately unable to join us!



Shauntay Grant's spoken words inspired all who attended our **Fall African Luncheon** on November 10. Shauntay has been a wonderful support for to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. We have formed a partnership with POETS 4 CHANGE, she wrote a beautiful poem for the WALK 2011.

We are most appreciative of the continuing community support for this annual fundraiser and for the staff members from **Scotiabank** who assisted us again this year.



Several choirs lifted their voices and local musicians performed Jazz selections during the

Christmas House Tour held at Angie's in French Village on December 9th



Program In September, one of our members, Barbara Cummergen, described several experiences she and her family members have had in Swaziland. She provided information regarding several projects in which she has been involved and her pictures presented a window into some of the exciting work being done.

In November Muhammed Ngallan and his wife Kelly joined us. Muhammed, the Executive Director of the NS Gambia Association, provided a wealth of information about life in his county of birth. He stressed the importance of Grassroots programs and described several initiatives of the NS Gambia Association since it formed (27 years ago). Programming provided in all secondary schools has primarily focused on health and relationships and has contributed to a much lower rate of HIV AIDS than the other countries in Africa (currently reported to be 2.1%).

Malaika Grandmothers of Halifax

We had a successful Fall 2012. We held a Kazuri Jewellery Sale and Tea afternoon in November 20th and received more in donations for SLF. In December we had our second penny roll. We keep forgetting to take pictures. Next time you'll see us.

African Threads



Alwyn Finley, a small customer

2012 was a successful year for **African Threads** and the 4th annual Christmas Sale and Open House was very well attended. The Zulu beads are spreading wide and far. A beautiful Zulu necklace was presented to the out-going Lt. Governor Mayanne Francis for her birthday. In October I was invited to give a presentation to the International Leadership Group at the Coady Institute in Antigonish. The group was from all over the world and working in their communities to develop local resources to generate income for their communities. I'm delighted and honoured to have been chosen to be in the SLF book about Canadian Grandmothers. My interview will highlight the work of African Threads and how the voice of African women is represented in the stitched tapestries and beadwork sold by African Threads. In April this year I'll be leading an Arts and Culture Tour of South Africa. I have 22 people on the tour and we'll visit many fascinating parts of South Africa including Nelson Mandela's house and the Hillcrest AIDS Centre in Durban. While I'm in South Africa I'll take the opportunity to visit the many women's groups I work with. I'll also be on the lookout for new women's groups to buy goods from. Keep an eye open for the new goods I'll be bringing in.



Grandmothers Tribunal – excerpts from the special Granny Bulletin sent out January 13th.
 The Foundation is organizing and hosting the African Grandmothers Tribunal, on Sunday May 26, 2013 in Vancouver, British Columbia. "The Tribunal is the first of its kind, and will shine a light on African grandmothers as experts and agents of change in the context of the pandemic, in order to build awareness, raise funds, and produce significant recommendations for change.
 We are holding the Tribunal in Vancouver as a first step in planning some major Foundation events outside of the Toronto-area, and across Canada. In this way, we hope not only to engage more Canadians, but importantly to honour you, the grandmothers and grandfathers who work so tirelessly in support of African grandmothers.
 Six grandmothers from sub-Saharan Africa will come to Canada, alongside representatives from six community-based organizations. In the presence of a small panel of internationally-recognized "judges", the grandmothers will speak about their own experiences.As Canadian grandmothers and members of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, you stand in solidarity with African grandmothers, raising the funds and awareness so vital to the success of the grassroots organizations.
 The Tribunal is an historic opportunity to support them in another way – by bearing witness to their testimonies.
 Members of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign will have advance access to seats at the Tribunal. And of course, we'll find creative ways to ensure that grandmothers outside of Vancouver, who cannot attend in person, can equally bear witness to the testimonies of African grandmothers at the Tribunal."
 Watch the website for more information, and if you are in Vancouver on the 26th of May...put it on your agenda.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation Book
 We are pleased to tell you that several grandmothers from Atlantic Canada have been chosen to be part of the new coffee table book the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign is putting together. They include Jane Earle, Ime Joost, Valerie Hearder, Marilyn Coolen, Dominica Gardner, Lillian Viau, and Louise Pentz, Linda Wills. The premise of the book, as you will remember is "that the story of the Grandmothers Campaign can't really be told by any one voice or narrative – but is in the collective perspectives, experiences, wisdom, actions and voices of each and every grandmother involved – both in Africa and Canada! The book will therefore attempt to compile as many stories and perspectives as we can, to tell the remarkable story of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. All of you make up the fabric of this Campaign and we will not be able to give voice to all of your hard work, experiences, and indefatigable support unless we hear from you directly, so please continue to share your stories, and nominate those whose stories have inspired you to continue the momentum of the Campaign."
 Alexis MacDonald, Director of External Relations and Jane Farrow, Director of Media Projects will be visiting the area on February 4th – 6th to meet with the grandmothers and record their stories and to take pictures of them with grandchildren, if possible.

Pennies for Positive Change

Many groups have been saving and collecting pennies. Please let me know how you have done so far, we would like to count up the pennies collected in the Atlantic area. lwills@ns.sympatico.ca

More on Paola

Another season, another show! Soon I'll be speaking in places as far-flung as Saskatchewan and Sarasota --- and from sea to shining sea.

Please come to a slide presentation near you! I will be sharing stories about the courageous women featured in my new photo book, *GRANDMOTHER POWER, A GLOBAL PHENOMENON*. You will find their achievements impressive and inspiring. Plus, I would love to see you!

If you have friends who live in cities where public events are scheduled, please invite them. I look forward to meeting them.

[Click here](#) to see the event calendar.

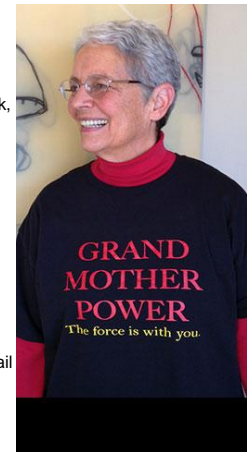
Soon!

Paola

(Note from Linda: You might want to pass along this information to your friends in other areas)

PS. My husband David Hill dreamed up the GRANDMOTHER POWER t-shirt.

Many of you said you would like one of these t-shirts at our Gathering on the 26th. To order one at cost (\$14.50 plus shipping), email your size (S, M, L, XL) and postal address to him: yonderhill@msn.com Mary Hills of the Dartmouth Grandmothers has offered to place a group order to save on shipping. If interested, email her at Mary Hills mhills@ns.sympatico.ca



Information Regarding Tax Receipts – Watch the G2G website for a complete Guide for Treasurers

Which donations get tax receipts, which donations do not get tax receipts, and when are the tax receipts issued. The answers, in general terms, are below.

What Can Be Received?

Individual donations of \$20 or more. We will issue receipts for donations made by cash, cheque, credit card, or an online donation of \$20 or more annually. In order to issue a receipt, we must have the full name and mailing address of the donor. It's also very useful to have an e-mail address and phone number; that way if there is a problem with the donation, we can be in touch directly.

Proceeds from a Seller. Artists or bakers or jewellers, who are selling their work, may send in the proceeds from their sales and will receive a tax receipt. The buyer of the craft or art cannot receive a tax receipt.

What Cannot Be Received?

Donations on behalf of someone else. The Foundation cannot issue a tax receipt to someone when the donation has been made by someone else. For example, you cannot make a donation (on behalf of someone's birthday) and ask that the birthday honoree get a tax receipt. Only a donor can get a tax receipt.

Fixed Ticket Sales. The Foundation cannot issue a tax receipt to a donor who has paid for a ticket to get into the event (such as a concert or dinner), even if 100% of the ticket price is donated to the Foundation. This is because CRA guidelines indicate that the SLF can only issue receipts for a "free will" donation. In other words, any additional donation which is freely given, may receive a tax receipt. You cannot stipulate or suggest an amount to be donated in order to attend the event. For example you cannot say "entrance by donation of \$20". Instead you should simply say something like "entrance by donation" and then leave it up to the individual to decide how much they wish to donate. You may mention that tax receipts can be provided for donations of \$20 or more.

Purchase of Products or Services. The Foundation cannot issue a tax receipt to a donor who buys or wins a product or service – like buying a handmade tote bag, or making the highest bid on a silent auction item. In these kinds of cases, the donor is not eligible for an official tax receipt, even if all the proceeds from the sale or auction are being donated to the Foundation.

Sponsorships. The SLF does not provide tax receipts for sponsorships. Under CRA regulations, sponsors cannot receive a tax receipt as they are receiving benefits of commercial value (an 'advantage') for their sponsorship fee. The advantage to the company is most often name and logo

Thank you for all your articles and photographs. If one of your group keeps a file with the photos as events happen, they can easily be called up for our June edition. Good luck in all your Grandmother events planned for the winter and spring. Keep an eye for HEAR YE! to learn what the various groups have planned, and if time and travel permit, perhaps you might join them.

If you have any comments or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me. lwills@ns.sympatico.ca, 902-835-7931

Linda Wills, Editor

