



oomama

Supporting African Grandmothers
and Orphans Through the
Stephen Lewis Foundation

Fall Newsletter 2023

New Grandmothers to Grandmothers Logo

The new logo is above. From the G to G website: To develop the idea of the "grandmother tree" into a meaningful and beautiful logo, we worked closely with [Lulu Kitololo Studio](#). In Lulu's words about her studio and team, "Our designs celebrate diversity - drawing inspiration from nature, as well as cultures and crafts from around the world and in particular, our beloved home continent, Africa."

Through close consultation and input, including images of the finished 20th anniversary solidarity quilt (below), the final graphic emerged. Like the quilt, we believe that this logo holds the story of what becomes possible when women gather, connect, and share their resources, creativity, and compassion. It is intended to represent solidarity, courage, anti-oppression, optimism, and accountability.



Wendy, Sandy, Bev, and Pat B. attended the Fall Regional Gathering in Brantford (page 5), where the beautiful quilt was displayed. See Page 4 for more about the Quilt.



In-Person Marketplace

Nov. 25, 9:30 am - 2 pm

St. John's United,
262 Randall St., Oakville
and online:

oomama.org/marketplace

The Solidarity Quilt depicts our "grandmother tree." Her outstretched arms are branches, vibrant with foliage, and each leaf is distinct, unique, and part of a whole. Seedlings thrive beneath these branches, representing the growth made possible within communities through the strength, nurturing, and shelter the grandmothers provide. The quilt itself is a symbol of solidarity, stitched together with care and contributions from grandmothers across Canada and six countries in sub-Saharan Africa. ...continued

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"No One Left Behind" Enough contributions from grandmothers across Canada and six countries in sub-Saharan Africa, were received that a second quilt was created from the additional material. --Logo and Quilt information is from the G to G website.



Stride to Turn the Tide 2023

What a team!! We managed to stride a total of 20,321 kilometres! Awesome 'stepping' everyone! In June, we continued through Zambia, Malawi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya, on our way back to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. We ended up just 187 kms short of our starting point of Addis Ababa. What a trip! We not only stepped our way through Africa, but we also raised close to \$16,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation!! Congratulations to everyone for an outstanding accomplishment.

At the Wrap Up Party, September 21st, we honoured two terrific winners: Anne MacKenzie-Thompson for the most steps taken, and Pat McKee for the most money raised. Awesome!

Your Halton/Peel Virtual Stride Team



Oomama and Bronte Grans: Susan, Pat M, Carolyn, Wendy, Mary, Deanna, Maureen, Rosanne, Irene R., Barb, Wendy, Leslie

Afternoon Games and Book Sale September 27, 2023



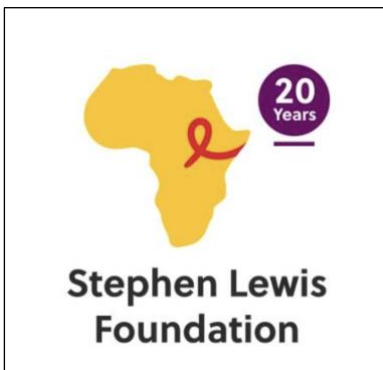
It was a fun afternoon for the 23 game participants and 10 Oomamas. Ninety percent of the gamers were Bridge players. There were delicious refreshments, and an amazing collection of books - many current and most in excellent condition. Guests were very impressed with the collection. Book Sales and Admission fees brought in \$946.58. After subtracting the expenses of \$364.90, we sent \$581.68 to the SLF. Unsold books were donated to the Canadian School Book Exchange in Mississauga.





Back Row: Bev, *Co-Chair Barb*, Pat B, Dell, *Co-Chair Pat M*
Front Row: Wendy, Sandy, Judy P, Leslie

Report from our Co-chairs: Barb Podgorski and Pat McKee



Pat McKee who has been either solitary chair, or co-chair for 4.5 years has decided to step away from this role beginning in January. Barb Podgorski has been a very able co-chair for the past many months and we hope that someone else will step forward to co-chair with her.

This has been a very busy year for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of SLF, a new logo was designed.



In addition, SLF hosted a very well-organized and orchestrated, hybrid **International Grandmothers Gathering** event **October 24–26, 2023**, simultaneously in Canada, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

In Canada, 114 Canadian grandmothers gathered at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, joined by 5 representatives from Africa (including Kenneth Mugayehwenkyi of Reach One Touch One Ministries in Uganda and Mama Darlena) with more connecting virtually. It was hoped that Idah Mukuka Nambeya would be present but she was unable to get a visa. As with previous gatherings, there was a solidarity march.



Delegates from Uganda above and Tanzania below



Grandmother activists in all 11 countries connected virtually and shared stories, built community, and mobilized to make an action plan for the next chapter of the international grandmothers' movement under the theme: Reflect, Rejuvenate, Renew: Grandmothers rising to new possibilities.

This sixth Grandmothers Gathering was an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the grandmothers' movement to date, raise awareness on current struggles, and make advocacy plans to bring about changes to government policy and increase community support.

Another part of the 20th anniversary celebrations was the design and creation of a **Solidarity Quilt** (3 years in the making) with contributions from numerous Canadian grandmother groups and community-based organizations in Africa. What a coordinated effort! You can see this quilt on page 1.

There are many beautiful elements in the quilt. For example, this section "Together We Stand" represents Canadian and African grandmothers joining hands to share the burden after the devastation caused by HIV.



Link for More About the Quilt
Grandmotherscampaign.org/solidarity-quilt



The South/Southwestern Gathering of SLF Grandmother Groups

Coming Together - A Day of Renewal

Saturday, September 20, 2023 Hosted by
the Grand River Grannies in Brantford

Our yearly gathering is always worth going to. Sandy, Wendy, Pat B. and I went to it and represented Oomama. Meg French, the Executive Director (pictured) of SLF gave the excellent Keynote Address with a Powerpoint to accompany it. She gave us lots of ideas, updated AIDS information, and was very inspirational.

The Grand River Grannies were terrific hosts with delicious food for lunch, a well-organized Marketplace, and breakout rooms. There were 3 workshops to choose from: **Attracting Women to the Campaign** - considering new and different ways to attract women and enable their involvement in the Campaign; what can membership be? **Diversity, Inclusion, Recruitment and Retention (DIRR)** recommendations. **Striking a Balance** - being realistic about what we can do; using collaboration and partnership; what we do well; taking care of ourselves as we pursue our mission supporting our sisters in Africa. **Navigating Our Way** - exploring all that's available on the Campaign website; educating and inspiring ourselves and others. --Beverly



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TRAVEL Jewellery Bags

Check out [Miscellaneous!](#)

- *Art Caddies
- *Noun Sense Board Game
- *38 Ways to Entertain your Grandparents
- *Colourful Playing Card Holders
- *Scrubbies
- *Travel Tags & Handle Holders

And Boxy Bags, Shopping Bags, Zippered Bags






GRAN Grandmothers Advocacy Network
<https://grandmothersadvocacy.org>


GRAND(M)OTHERS ACT TO SAVE THE PLANET

A grass-roots community group committed to climate action and advocacy.
<https://www.gasp4change.org>

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