

Changing Tides

*Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign
Campagne des grands-mères à grands-mères*

**Ottawa-Gatineau Region
Région d'Ottawa-Gatineau**

March 31, 2025
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Editor's Notes

At the end of March, our region is well on its way to launch multiple fundraisers, to help address the unconscionable depletion of US foreign aid funds. Our groups are creating innovative ways to contribute to the *SLF Emergency Fund* to support the Partner organizations and their communities in Africa that have been affected.

Meanwhile, fun activities await at the *Capital Grannies' Trivia Night* and the *Grandmas AIDing Grandmas' 11th Annual Card Party*. Kudos to all of you for your energy and ideas!

With spring here, gardeners are looking forward to attending the plant and garden sales by the *Grassroot Grannies* and the *Unitarian GoGos* in early May. Posters are enclosed in the newsletter.

Regionally, ideas are underway to take part in the *Stride to Turn the Tide*, plans to host another *Granny-fest* and a second *Grandmothers' Bridge-Crossing* event in early September, this time at the Adawe Crossing pedestrian bridge at Strathcona Park in Overbrook-Vanier. The planning committee is

at work to provide more details as sessions progress.

We always look forward to Sandi and Sarah's report with its informative and positive comments of regional input and news from the SLF. We are learning more about how the Partner organizations are affected.

We encourage you to share your items and news, ideas and input for inclusion in *Changing Tides*! You make our region the enduring place it is with your ingenuity, collaboration, and feisty spirit!

Mia Overduin, Editor

Excerpt from *The HIV Movement in Crisis: Understanding the Impact of the U.S. Funding Loss on the HIV Response (March 2025)*

(Editor's Note: This document has been prepared by the *Stephen Lewis Foundation* and appears on the SLF website at stephenlewisorganization.org. under *Publications – Learning Reports*. This citation is from page 11 entitled **Orphans and Vulnerable Children**. GRL Sandi refers to the study's survey in her March 2025 *GRL Updates*.)

A backbone of the HIV response for decades has been supporting children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS-related causes and other children made vulnerable by HIV. The loss of U.S. funding has halted services, nutrition programs, school fees payment, caregiver support programs, etc. for hundreds of thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children. An SLF partner shared with us how significantly the funding loss affects orphaned and vulnerable children in their community: "We have 46,335 unsupported orphaned and vulnerable children from the decision, some of them are living with HIV and others are survivors of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and exploitation."

GRL Updates – March 2025

The foreign aid crisis continues to dominate the conversation this month. As we move into the spring fundraising season, I hope you will take every opportunity to seek donations to the Emergency Fund.

USAID Crisis Update

Since the initial announcement of a funding freeze of *USAID*, some clarification has been provided, for example, exemptions for “*lifesaving medications*.” However, the reality is that without the staff to deliver and administer medications, including *ARVs*, people are not getting the help they need. In addition to *HIV* and *AIDS*, efforts to eliminate tuberculosis and malaria have been seriously impacted.

Following the initial review, the *US* government announced on March 10th that 83% of *USAID*’s programs would be cancelled, involving approximately 5,200 contracts and 90% of the staff.

The freeze in HIV relief programs, including *PEPFAR*, is estimated to jeopardize treatment access for 20 million people, including 500,000 children.

In spite of challenges in the courts as to the constitutionality of this action, nothing has changed.

Emergency Fund

SLF partner organizations have been seriously impacted by the freezing of *USAID* funds, whether they are direct recipients or not. The *SLF* staff surveyed 98 partner organizations (72 responded) between February 14 and February 24, 2025, to better understand the impacts of the funding loss on their communities. The intent was to identify areas where the emergency funds were most needed.

The survey complements what was learned through email correspondence and ongoing conversations with partners since the *US* decisions were announced in late January. *SLF* partners who responded to the survey had more than \$44 million *USD* of *US* funding frozen or terminated. For 18 *SLF* partners, each have lost \$100,000 *USD* or more. Copies of the full report have been sent to group leaders in the Ottawa-Gatineau Region.

SLF has created a poster and *QR* codes that groups can use for raising emergency funds as well as a press release and *FAQs*. Copies have been shared with group leaders but if you need more, please contact Sandi or Sarah and we will send you the electronic files.

(.../continued on page 3)

GRL Updates – March 2025 (.../cont'd)

National Fundraising Webinar

Staff at the *SLF* are still working on plans for a national online event with the intention of informing donors of the current foreign aid situation and raising money for the emergency fund. They are approaching keynote speakers and considering approaching other, like-minded foundations. We will keep you apprised of any decisions as they take place.

Regional Meeting

Following the regional meeting on February 11th, groups reported back on a preferred timeframe for the next **Grannyfest** and whether or not they would be able to contribute to a market, such as *613 Flea*. We also received feedback on a charity benefit fundraising event with *Ottawa Little Theatre* which is looking very positive. We will be meeting again in early April to plan a way forward on these initiatives.

Stride to Turn the Tide

June is traditionally *Stride* month but the concept can be carried over to any time of the year. The Campaign call on March 20th was dedicated to helping groups set up donation pages. I would hope that the Ottawa-Gatineau region would make an effort to contribute to this annual event. It doesn't have to be a major undertaking. Just a short walk on a single day would raise awareness and funds. Consider making it a multi-generational event and involve the grandchildren. Several groups actually included a soccer game and a picnic. Check out the fundraising pages at <https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/stridetoturnthetide2025>. There's also a "how to" guide to help you set up and register your own page at <https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/grandmotherscampaign2025/resources>. If you need extra help, contact the campaign office and they will be happy to help you.

Fibre Fling

We will be selling quilt notecards again at the *Out of the Box* fibre artists' spring show and sale being held at the *Kitchissippi United Church*, 630 Island Park Drive, on April 25th and 26th. Please pass this along to family and friends and we hope to see you there.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact either of us.

Yours in solidarity, Sandi and Sarah

Sandi (sandilondon01@gmail.com, 613-203-3026)

Sarah (sjaakafelix@icloud.com, 613-790-9537)

Fundraisers Fun Facts!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sue's story provides some delightful facts about the stellar results of fundraising outcomes. We welcome such snapshots of your successes and/or challenges. A larger version of this poster appears on page 7 of this issue.

KUDOS, Grassroot Grannies!

17th GRASSROOT GRANNIES
Annual Plant Sale & Market Place
Saturday, May 10, 2025
65 Knudson Drive, K2K 2L5
8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

What Can You Expect?

- * Hardy perennial plants, herbs and vegetable seedlings
- * Hand-crafted garden art
- * Gently used garden tools & ornaments
- * Raffle table

There will be horticulturists on site for advice on landscape design and plant care

WE ACCEPT CASH, CHEQUES & CREDIT CARDS

RAIN OR SHINE THE EVENT GOES ON

GRASSROOT GRANNIES

We have chosen to donate to:
the STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

**Sue Cousineau,
Grassroot Grannies,
writes:**

This year will be our 17th year holding this event. Only the two years during COVID did we have to cancel it. An interesting statistic is that the Grassroot Grannies have raised over \$100,000 just through this event alone. I know this is blowing our own horn but all together over the 19 years as a granny group, we have proudly raised over \$1,200,000 for the Grandmothers Campaign.

Little did we know when we held our first event in 2007, Plant Sale and Garden Tour, did we even fathom that we would be this successful in our fundraising abilities. And we are still going strong!

GRASSROOTS EVENTS



Capital Grannies Aiding African Grandmothers

The **Capital Grannies** invite you to a **Trivia Night**
in support of the **Grandmothers' Campaign**

Date: Sunday, April 6. Quiz starts at 6:30 PM
Location: Barley Mow at 1541 Merivale Road
Cost: \$25 per person, \$10 for under-16s.

Join us for great fun and prizes!

All proceeds go directly to the **Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers' Campaign**.

Come early to enjoy dinner at the pub.

How to Register and Pay

Please register - Help us to organize people into teams.

- Register via this QR code; or,
- Send an email to capitalgrannies@bell.net

Payment Methods:

- Send an etransfer to capitalgrannies@bell.net.
Please include identifying information in the **Comment**
- Pay cash at the door.



area.

For information about the work of the Capital Grannies:

stephenlewisfoundation.org grandmotherscampaign.org



Questions:
capitalgrannies@bell.net



GRASSROOTS EVENTS

grandmas AIDing grandmas **11th Annual Card Party**



Tuesday April 29, 2025

12:30 – 4 pm (doors open at noon, lunch 12:30)

\$35 per person

St. Helen's Church

1234 Prestone Drive, Orleans

Lunch • Door Prizes • Raffle • Market

**Enjoy a delicious lunch and your favourite card games, and support
courageous African grandmothers raising a generation of
grandchildren orphaned by the AIDS epidemic**

Tickets: Lynn: 613-410-6680 or Barbara: 613-824-3524

For more information: grandmas59@gmail.com

**Proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign
A donation for the Food Bank would be appreciated**

GRASSROOTS EVENTS



GRASSROOT GRANNIES

Annual Plant Sale & Market Place

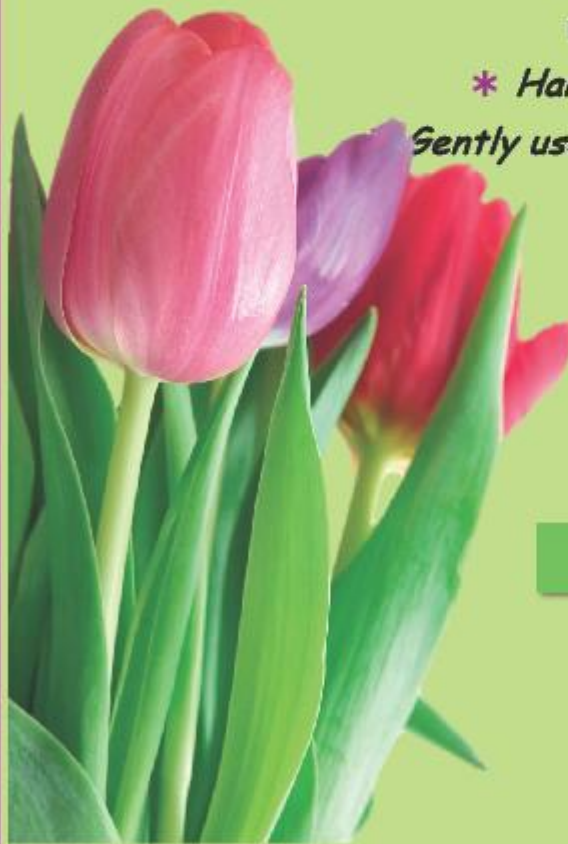
Saturday, May 10, 2025

65 Knudson Drive, K2K 2L5

8:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

What Can You Expect?

- * *Hardy perennial plants, herbs and vegetable seedlings*
- * *Hand-crafted garden art*
- * *Gently used garden tools & ornaments*
- * *Raffle table*



There will be horticulturists on site for advice on landscape design and plant care

**WE ACCEPT CASH, CHEQUES
& CREDIT CARDS**

RAIN OR SHINE THE EVENT GOES ON



GRASSROOTS EVENTS



UNITARIAN GOGOS FUNDRAISER FOR THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

2025 GARDEN PLANT SALE

*A variety of perennials, home-baking, preserves,
honey & Jewelry.*

LOCATION: First Unitarian Congregation
30 Cleary Avenue, Ottawa, ON
K2A 4A1



DATES Friday, May 9th 9 AM – 4:30 PM
& TIMES: Saturday, May 10th 9 AM – 4:30 PM
Sunday, May 11th 9 AM – 1:30 PM

PAYMENT: Pay What You Wish. Proceeds to
Stephen Lewis Foundation



Please mark the dates on your calendar.
We really appreciate the support we
receive for our annual plant sale!

Please Note – Jewelry will only be available on Friday & Saturday



GRASSROOTS EVENTS CALENDAR

Editor's Note: Submissions for the monthly newsletter are due on the 23rd of the month.

DATE	GRANNY GROUP	EVENT/CONTACT	LOCATION/TIME/CONTACT
April 6, 2025	<i>Capital Grannies</i>	TRIVIA NIGHT Join for great prizes. Come early to enjoy dinner at the publ. Questions: capitalgrannies@bell.net	BARLEY MOW 1541 Merivale Road, Ottawa Quiz Start: 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$25 per person/\$10 (under 16 years) Registration: QR code (poster) e-transfer/cash at the door (See poster on page 5)
April 25-26, 2025	<i>Out-of-the-Box Artists</i>	FIBRE FLING 2025	KITCHISSIPPI UNITED CHURCH 630 Island Park Drive, Ottawa
April 29, 2025	<i>Grandmas AIDing Grandmas</i>	11th Annual Card Party Lunch, Door Prizes, Raffle, Market Tickets: Lynn: (613) 410-6680 or Barbara: (613) 824-3524 More info: grandmas59@gmail.com	ST. HELEN'S CHURCH 1234 Preston Drive, Orleans ON 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. (Doors open at noon/Lunch: 12:30 p.m.) Cost: \$35 per person (See poster on page 6)
May 10, 2025 (Rain or Shine)	<i>Grassroot Grannies</i>	Annual Plant Sale & Marketplace – Hardy perennial plants, herbs, vegetable seedlings; hand crafted garden art; gently-used garden tools & ornaments; raffle table.	65 Knudson Drive, Kanata 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon Cash, cheques, credit cards (Horticulturalists on site for advice – landscape design, plant care) (See poster on page 7)
May 9-11, 2025	<i>Unitarian GoGos</i>	2025 Garden Plant Sale A variety of perennials, home-baking, preserves, honey, and jewelry.	First Unitarian Congregation 35 Cleary Avenue Friday, May 9: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Saturday, May 10: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Sunday, May 11: 9:00 am – 1:30 pm (See poster on page 8)

The Africa Book Nook

Our *Book Nook* has had two lovely, animated sessions with 8–9 readers! So far, we have read and discussed two books: *Half of a Yellow Sun*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; and *The Power of Women*, Dr. Denis Mukwege. Our next Zoom session will be held on May 28. Coordinators for the *Book Nook* are Diane Woods (drandallwoods@gmail.com) and Mia Overduin (miawboverduin@gmail.com). Our book for the May 28th session: *Racism in Post-Apartheid South Africa, J.M. Coetzee's 'Disgrace' – A Postcolonial Analysis*, Shafgat Mushtaq.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

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- 1) Changing Tides Newsletter

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