

Changing Tides

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

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

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Inside this issue:

Editor's Notes/ Stride to Turn the Tide 2025	1
GRL Updates - May 2025	2-4
Grassroots Events <i>Stories & Songs on a Summer Evening/ Grandmothers Bridge Crossing</i>	5-6
Grassroots Events Calendar/ Regional Contacts	7

Editor's Notes

Summer is here to stay for a spell and we gratefully embrace it. The coming months announce a wonderful array of summer activities which have a wonderful regional welcome – all in solidarity with additional efforts to address some of the diminished foreign aid funds.

You'll note the informative and innovative updates from Sarah (Sandi is still in Africa) and we can't wait till she returns and shares some of her learning experiences and interactions across the ocean.

We appreciate receiving news from the field representatives in Africa through the information from the monthly *SLF Campaign Calls*. It keeps us in touch with current events affecting grandmothers and their communities!

June is marked with two lively events: the invitation to All O-GRGN members to join the *One World Grannies* in the ***Stride to Turn the Tide!*** And a few days later, enjoy the ever-popular *Stories & Songs on a Summer Evening* hosted by the OWG and the *Unitarian GoGos*,

Organizing plans for the Grandmothers Bridge Crossing event in early September are well underway. Check out the photos of the Adawe Crossing pedestrian bridge sent in by Sarah! It's a beautiful site which lends itself well to awareness-raising interaction with the public.

Enjoy the greenery and floral displays as you pursue summer's activities!

Mia Overduin, Editor

STRIDE TO TURN THE TIDE 2025

The **ONE WORLD GRANNIES** Invites **O-GRGN Members**
To Walk with Them on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
At Mexi's Restaurant (Dow's Lake)

- Choose one of two walks:
 - 2 km along *Dow's Lake to Bronson Ave. and back*, or
 - 4 km to Bank Street and back
- Walkers will wear a sign on their back (*Ask Me Why I'm Walking with QR code*)
- Handouts re. *Emergency Fund & Grandmothers Campaign*
- **CONTACT:** sjaakafelixu@icloud.com or (613) 790-9537 (text or call)

GRL Updates – May 2025

As we eagerly await news and information from those returning from the African trip, a lot has been happening on the home front in May with plant and market sales, and plans for June ***Stride to Turn the Tide Walks***, and the annual ***Stories and Songs on a Summer Evening*** event. And we seem to have turned a corner on the weather front, a topic near and dear to Sarah's heart.

GRL Updates

As of the meeting date, May 14/25, \$800,000 had been raised through the ***Emergency Fund***, from grandmothers groups, individuals, foundations and unions. So inspiring! But lots more effort is needed, as we know, so continuing our work remains super important.

As Thushika is on the African trip, please do not use her personal email for Campaign purposes. Other SLF staff have access to the campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org site and will respond to questions and requests until she is back.

The SLF held an online event on May 15/25 to mark the *International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)*. The event was recorded, and to receive the recording go to: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/voices-of-resistance-community-and-courage-in-defense-of-lgbtqi-rights-tickets-1335168287289>.

Any experience with using Bluesky, the social media platform now used by the SLF (instead of Twitter/X)? Feedback is welcomed.

Across the country, other successful fundraisers included events such as a *Spring Bling*, a *High Tea*, a partnership with a professional theatre company for the staging of the play ***"Casey and Diana"***, several VERY lucrative *Fabric Sales* and a *Chili in a Bowl* event.

May CAMPAIGN CALL

The focus of the Call was hearing from SLF's Deputy Director of Impact and Learning, Leah Odle-Benson. Leah was in Kenya in March for meetings with field representatives. She also visited two SLF partners, MAAYGO (*Mission for Advocacy and Advisory for Young Generation Organization*), and PENAF (*Pendeza Africa*) in Kisumu, Kenya. You can watch Leah's presentation here: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/Pl_vosUElmcqU-BEgYpWGaOET497Pw_zTcRG7fWQVsxeNTDiE-7b2594y7sR80cVpMweQMfh_otlIkTc.OVjoPibO5fPfO_mn.

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GRL Updates – May 2025 (.../cont'd)

The main takeaways are:

- All partners are feeling the impact of funding cuts, directly or indirectly;
- Everyone is concerned and anxious about maintaining access to ARV treatment;
- The terrible loss of community support and outreach workers and in-clinic HIV services;
- Lack of clarity about what the national response will be (e.g., each country experiencing these cuts) as key allies in government have gone somewhat quiet;
- Nevertheless, partners are determined to push forward to maintain hard fought-for gains, but this comes at great expense as staff have been laid off, and many unknowns remain.

The *Diversity, Inclusion, Recruitment and Retention (DIRR)* committee recently held an information session for *GRAN*, and reminds all groups the *DIRR* committee is available to meet with you by Zoom or in-person.

Robin Scobie will be the lecturer at the *Guelph Summer Lecture Club* on June 16/25. Robin will have recently returned from visiting *SLF* partners in South Africa and Eswatini on the grandmothers Africa trip and will be recounting her experiences there. Register for \$10, with proceeds donated to the *Guelph Gogo Grandmothers*, at: <https://www.summerlecturesclub.ca/lecures-2025.html>.

Please note there will be no *June Campaign Call* as the date coincides with *Quilt Canada, Mississauga, Ontario*, June 19-21, 2025 where *SLF* will be represented.

Stride to Turn the Tide

Best wishes to all those who will walk to ***Stride to Turn the Tide***, whenever and wherever you may walk!

A reminder that the **ONE WORLD GRANNIES INVITES O-GRGN MEMBERS** to walk with them on **SATURDAY, JUNE 14/25**. Walkers meet at **MEXI'S RESTAURANT** at **DOW'S LAKE** at 2 p.m. Please arrive a little early, bring water and a hat, and wear sunscreen. (I promise, I'm not your mother but I do feel a bit responsible!!! This is from Sarah – Sandi is still in Africa!)

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GRL Updates – May 2025 (.../cont'd)

We will start promptly at 2 p.m., walk along *Dow's Lake* to Bronson and back (<2 km) or Bank and back (4 km), your choice. Simple signs to wear on your back will be provided (**Ask Me Why I'm Walking** with the QR code), and there will be handouts about the *Emergency Fund* and the Grandmothers Campaign available for you to use.

For those who have not done so (and many thanks to those who have already contacted me), please let me know ASAP in order to determine the number of signs we will need – sjaakafelix@icloud.com or (613) 790-9537 (text or call).

A busy time of the year for all!
In solidarity, Sandi and Sarah

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

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

The uncertainty, the ambiguity, the wilful chaos have resulted in fear and confusion on the ground. As our Executive Director, Meg French, has said: "Lives will be lost." Our best contribution at this perilous moment is to attempt to replace the resources that Trump has expunged. Please give what you are able."
Stephen Lewis, SLF Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Board and former UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa (as printed in Grassroots Spring 2025)

GRASSROOTS EVENTS

One World Grannies & Unitarian GoGos
present:

Stories & Songs on a Summer Evening

Unconditional Love: The Grand Connection

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Doors open 6:30

7:00 - 9:00 pm

First Unitarian, 30 Cleary Ave

**Tickets \$35 on Eventbrite
or call 705-875-0277**

**Treats & door prizes
at intermission!**

Lead Sponsor:

**WATSON'S
PHARMACY**
& COMPOUNDING CENTRE



**All proceeds to the
Stephen Lewis Foundation
Grandmothers Campaign**

GRASSROOTS EVENTS

GRANDMOTHERS' BRIDGE CROSSING

- DATE:** *National Grandparents Day, September 7*
(Rain Date: Sept. 14) – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- LOCATION:** Adawe Crossing Pedestrian Bridge at Strathcona Park
- PURPOSE:** An education and awareness Grandmothers Campaign Event: '*Cross the Bridge – Bridge the Gap*'



ACTIVITIES:

- Family Picnic
- Fill Grandmothers Clothesline with ideas/wishes
- Bridge crossing with purpose – *Bridge the Gap*
- Raise awareness of Funding Emergency facing Grandmothers & their families in sub-Saharan Africa.



PHOTOS (by John Donnelly)

Above – Strathcona Park surroundings

Below – Adawe Crossing Pedestrian Bridge

Area – Overbrook/Vanier

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
June 14, 2025	<i>One World Grannie & O-GRGN Members</i>	STRIDE TO TURN THE TIDE Choose one of two walks: 2 km walk along Dow's Lake to Bronson Ave. and back, or, 4 km walk to Bank St. and back.	2:00 p.m. at DOW'S LAKE Contact: Sarah – sjaakafelix@icloud.com (613) 790-9537 (text or call) Walkers will receive a sign – <i>Ask Me Why I'm Walking & QR code</i>
June 18, 2025	<i>One World Grannies & Unitarian GoGos</i>	Stories & Songs on a Summer Evening – Unconditional Love: The Grand Connection Treats & door prizes at intermission. All proceeds to the SLF G2G Campaign	7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. First Unitarian, 30 Cleary Avenue, Ottawa Tickets: \$35 on <i>Eventbrite</i> Or call: (705) 875-0277
Sept. 7, 2025 (Rain Date Sept. 14, 2025)	<i>One World Grannies</i> REGIONAL EVENT	SAVE THE DATE – Grandmothers Campaign – Bridge Crossing 2025 <i>Adawe Crossing Pedestrian Bridge, Strathcona Park</i>	STRATHCONA PARK (Overbrook-Vanier) 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Family Picnic; Grandmothers' Clothesline; Bridge crossing - help to BRIDGE THE GAP; Raise awareness of the Funding Emergency facing grandmothers and their families in sub-Saharan Africa.

REGIONAL GRANDMOTHER LIAISON:

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- 1) Group Leaders Meetings
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- 1) Changing Tides Newsletter

SPEAKER'S BUREAU:

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