

Changing Tides

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

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

August 31, 2026
Volume 14, Issue 7

Editor's Notes

As we're winding down our summer activities and look towards fall and its promising engagement with other grandmothers/grandmothers, I hope you have enjoyed a bright and fulfilling time of 'otherness' and look forward to new opportunities and ongoing learning.

Before we know it, the 20th Anniversary Celebration will be here and we can look forward to meet and share with grandmothers and others from across Canada and Africa. Those of us who have

experienced interactions with others *from away* will feel excitement and a sense of connection with meaningful interactions and new projects.

We have been well informed by the SLF and our own Sarah Archer who has kept us in the loop of goings-on at the national level and how we can renew our commitment and reconections.

At a local level, we are looking forward to our 3rd Annual Bridge Crossing on September 13th and we hope to see some of you on *Grandparents Day!*

We wish our *Grassroot Grannies* good luck with their stellar *Ride* in September!

We hope to hear stories from you and your groups' ongoing fund- and awareness days! Best wishes to all you do as groups and as individuals!

Mia Overduin, Editor

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KAZURI JEWELLERY IS BACK!

The *One World Grannies* are organizing a RE-SALE at the **20th Anniversary Celebration** in October 2026. Read about this opportunity on page 7 of the August *Changing Tides*!

GRL Updates – August 2026

Hello Again Everyone!

As we don't have GRL or Campaign Zoom Meetings in July or August, the focus for the summer months has been on preparations for the *G2G 20th Anniversary*. The larger overall planning group, as well as individual sub-planning groups, have been busy confirming the program, including speakers and entertainment. I believe we are now over 150 attendees, so kudos to those (in-person and virtually) who have made this a priority. **A short summary follows, but be sure to click on the recently shared Program Details below for a complete overview.**

The theme for Opening Day, Monday, October 5th, is ***“Celebrating 20 Years”*** of partnership and impact by honouring the voices, experiences, and achievements of African and Canadian grandmothers. Together we will reflect on the extraordinary movement, 2006 to the present, and inspire a renewed commitment to collective action, learning and hope for the years ahead.

Following a short video tribute to Stephen Lewis, Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Co-Founder of the *Stephen Lewis Foundation*, will give the Keynote Address on Monday morning, Ilana will highlight grandmothers and their communities, partnerships and stories that continue to inspire and power the Campaign. Panel discussions follow into the afternoon.

Tuesday's theme, ***“Revelations and Realities,”*** invites us to learn, reflect and engage with current realities shaping communities affected by *HIV* and *AIDS*. We will hear from African grandmothers and partners, explore critical issues facing the movement, and discussing strategies to strengthen our collective impact in the years ahead.

Melissa Wainaina, *SLF* Field Representative, and Hombisa Ntsikanye, Project Director of the Grandmother Movement in South Africa (*GMISA*) are morning speakers. The afternoon Keynote Address by a representative from *Global Affairs Canada (International Development)* will focus on *Canada's Role in Global Health and the Fight to End AIDS*. Breakout sessions follow.

From 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., there is a *Marketplace and Celebration*. At the *Marketplace*, several groups from across the country will showcase items for purchase in support of the *Grandmothers Campaign*. The *Marketplace and Celebration* is open to the public, so, please encourage family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers to attend.

We are also thrilled to note that in addition to Stephen Page, several other entertainers/musicians are now confirmed: *Kamenga Cultural Group*, Jacqui du Toit and Stacey Dela Can-Tamakloe. A very special late afternoon/evening.

Wednesday's theme is ***“Recommitment,”*** where we close the three-day Celebration with a recommitment to global solidarity and collective action to end *AIDS*.

Our morning Keynote Speakers are Melissa Wainaina, *SLF* Field Representative on *Why Global Solidarity Matters*, and Meg French, Executive Director, *SLF*, on *The Importance of Grandmothers*.

Following a lunch break, there is our *March to Parliament Hill*, followed by *Question Period* in the House. We hope as many as possible are participating in this important endeavour.

(.../cont'd on page 3)

GRL Updates – August 2026

PROGRAM DETAILS

20th Anniversary Celebration – Program Details

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, IS HILL DAY

This is a day of advocacy! Information has previously been communicated about *Hill Day* and there are currently 43 people registered for *Hill Day*. If you are able to join this day in person or virtually, there is still time! Please contact Healy Thompson, Director of Advocacy, SLF, advocacy@stephenlewisfoundation.org. For Virtual Sign-up, please complete the following form: [SLF Virtual Hill Day Sign-Up](#).

OTHER NOTES

Of course, in addition to the Anniversary, several grandmothers groups are ramping up to start their own fundraising and education/awareness raising activities this fall. Mia will have you covered in the fall edition of ***Changing Tides!*** **BIG SHOUT-OUT TO MIA for all her ongoing work producing *Changing Tides*** and her support on several other fronts!

In Solidarity,

Sarah (with support from Sandi)
1-613-790-9537

ADDITIONAL NOTETS (EDITOR):

\$2.25 million raised by Grandmother groups - At the end of July, Thushika and Brandon from the SLF informed grandmother groups across Canada that \$2.25 million were raised by the groups during the past fiscal year – *“an incredible achievement!* Grandmothers were told: *“This milestone reflects the passion, generosity, determination, and unwavering commitment that each of you brings to this movement...Because of you, thousands of grandmothers and families will have greater access to life-changing programs, resources, and opportunities...Thank you for believing in this mission, for supporting one another, and for making such a profound difference.”* **KUDOS to the Grandmothers Campaign!**

THUSHIKA FROM SLF WRITES: Request for roommates re. Airbnb – Two members who are attending the Celebration are looking for two roommates interested to join them. Please circulate to members who are registered or consider registering. Please reach out directly **by September 5** to Blanka kuhnelb@gmail.com.

“Cathryn and I have booked an Airbnb for the grandmothers gathering in Ottawa. It is in Glebe, app 3 km from the meeting venue, a 10 minutes bus ride.

https://www.airbnb.ca/rooms/1280583411562298411?c=.pi80.pkYm9va2luZy9ndWVzdC9SZXNlcnZhdGlvbkNvbmlhZGlvbIRlbXBsYXRl&euid=24746ed7-9b0b-5afe-68c8-c3ebb0fed064&source_impression_id=p3_1786823851_P3vhNnBdmLf6lvnv

It sleeps comfortably 4 people in three bedrooms and a sofa bed (living room). **We are looking for two room mates**, both in a single occupancy bedroom (I will take the sofa bed).

SAVE THE DATE: Grandmothers Bridge-Crossing 2026

Please see below the wonderfully colourful and informative Marching Grannies poster from *One World Grannies* about the upcoming Bridge Crossing on National Grandparents Day, **Sunday, September 13, 2026.**

Please share with your membership.

This is the 3rd year of the event, and it is gaining momentum every year. If you haven't been out previously, come on over to see what it's all about!

Sarah Archer
613-790-9537

SAVE THE DATE and join us on Sunday, September 13th - National Grandparents Day - for our 3rd annual *Bridge Crossing* event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Adàwe Crossing Pedestrian Bridge in Strathcona Park on Range Road.

Bring your family - Grandchildren are especially welcome!
(The Marching Grannies information poster is attached to the distribution email of this newsletter).

Together, we'll celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Grandmothers Campaign, share our **G to G** story, write messages to our African grandmother sisters and walk in solidarity across the bridge.

We'll be joined by local leaders and *SLF* staff at 11 a.m., with time to connect, enjoy the park and share a picnic by the Rideau River. Across the bridge, ***The Bridge Public House Restaurant*** will be open to welcome you.

Come and walk with us, celebrate with us and help to Bridge the Distance.

We're hoping to see you there!

Susan, Shailja, Shelagh Jane, Kate, Dianne & Mia
The 2026 Bridge Crossing Planning Group.

(...cont'd on page 5)

SAVE THE DATE: Grandmothers Bridge-Crossing 2026

GRANDMOTHERS BRIDGE CROSSING 2026

National Grandparents Day

Sunday, September 13, 2026



Uganda Grandmothers Gathering, 2015 | Photo Credit: Emmanuel Meseruka

Passerelle Adàwe Crossing Pedestrian Bridge

Strathcona Park - Range Road, Ottawa / 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- All are invited to join the Ottawa & Gatineau Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign to celebrate 20 years of care and connection with Grandmothers in Africa and the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation to "Bridge the Gap" left by foreign fund withdrawal.
- Walk with us on a Bridge Crossing on the Adàwe Crossing pedestrian bridge.
- Bring a family picnic and listen to African music; learn about African countries and the resilience of African Grandmothers and their communities.
- Write a message to African Grandmothers.

THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS IS NOT OVER

AT RISK: Decades of progress to eliminate HIV and AIDS due to Global Funding Cuts

The Grandmothers Campaign raises funds and awareness, educates and advocates for human rights, health and social justice

KAZURI JEWELLERY RE-SALE – 20th Anniversary Celebration

KAZURI JEWELLERY IS BACK!!

GIVE AGAIN TO SUPPORT OUR AFRICAN SISTERS. If you still have some Kazuri Jewellery and can bear to part with it, the *One World Grannies* are organizing a re-sale at our 20th Anniversary Celebration in Ottawa in October 2026. All monies raised will go to the *SLF Grandmothers Campaign!*

For details, contact:

Susan Carter at slacarter78@gmail.com, OR
Marjorie Kort at marjoriekort@gmail.com, OR
Janice Beddard at janicebeddard@yahoo.co.uk



KAZURI JEWELRY SALE – 20th Anniversary Celebration

Kazuri Jewellery: A Winner Again!

By Peggy Edwards

The import of Kazuri jewellery (the word means “*small and beautiful*”) and sale by grandmother groups and grandmothers across the country became known as a win-win-win situation.

Win #1: Kazuri jewellery (the word means “small and beautiful”) is beautiful and colourful. The unique necklaces, chokers, bracelets and earrings are sold in kiosks in Africa and in other countries by local businesses and museums. The jewellery was imported to Canada by “**Kazuri Jewellery – The Grandmother Connection**” (**KJGC**), a non-profit business established by friends -- Marg Thompson (*Bruce Peninsula Grandmother Connection, Tobermory*) and Peggy Edwards (*One World Grannies, Ottawa*). Marg found the Kazuri workshop on a trip to Kenya in 2007. She brought home 10 pieces and asked the *One World Grannies* if we thought it would sell. There was an overwhelming chorus of YES followed by a friendly cat fight over who could purchase those first 10 pieces.

Win #2: The jewellery is made in a fair-trade workshop in Nairobi out of clay from Mt. Kenya. The Kazuri workshop employs over 300 marginalized African women, mostly single mothers and grandmothers who look after *AIDS* orphans. The artisans make the beads and paint them by hand. They are well-treated by their employer who provides better than average wages, health and childcare benefits and good working conditions.

Win #3: The import and sale of Kazuri jewellery became a major fundraiser for the *Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign*. After seven years in business when *KJGC* closed, grandmother groups and grandmothers had raised over \$950,000 (almost one million dollars) for the Grandmothers Campaign.

The Ottawa-Gatineau Region groups were major sellers, including groups in Quebec and rural area groups such as the *Petawawa Grannies*, *Gorgeous Grannies and Friends (North Gower)*, *Grannies All About Kids (Metcalf)* and the *Lanark Grannies (Perth)*. The grandmothers from Perth sold the jewellery for six years, sometimes out of the trunks of their cars. Finally, Diana Bracegirdle said, “*We are done. Every woman in Perth and surrounding towns owns a Kazuri necklace*”. The *One World Grannies* sent over \$60,000 from Kazuri sales between 2007 and 2012.

Strong support came from all over Ontario, every other province (BC had over 15 *KJGC* hosts) and the *Whitehorse Grannies (Yukon)*. Jewellery orders were shipped to Ottawa and then “sorted” and sent out to groups across the country.

(.../cont'd on page 8)

KAZURI JEWELRY SALE – 20th Anniversary Celebration



PHOTOS provided by the *One World Grannies*: Kenyan Women creating, painting, beading jewellery. Photo at bottom left shows Peggy Edwards on a visit to the factory.

KAZURI JEWELRY SALE – 20th Anniversary Celebration

(.../cont'd from page 8)

Peggy: *I'd like to recognize and thank several people who made KJGC possible:*



At the Kazuri Sort at the *First Unitarian Congregation* in 2010 (left to right) Lynne Brearley, Volunteer Quite Grannies; Peggy Edwards (Volunteer Owner); Marg Thompson (Volunteer Owner), Larry Davidson, GrandOther, Partner of Mara, Master of Ordering; Lori Blinn (Staff), Director of Operations.

GRASSROOTS EVENTS



The Stephen Lewis Foundation supports community-based organizations that are working to turn the tide of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa by providing care and support to women, orphans, and vulnerable children, grandmothers and networks of people living with HIV and AIDS.

17th Ride to Turn the Tide

The Stephen Lewis Memorial Ride

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Distance: 1 day ride - 50 km or 80 km

Registration fee: \$50

Start: 9 -10 am, staggered starts

Finish: Mid-afternoon, after Post-Ride Reception.

Start and finish from Bushtukah in Stittsville



For more information email stella Val at
stella-val@rogara.com
or go to
www.grassrootgrannies.com

Proceeds donated to:



The one-day Ride will leave from **Bushtukah** in Stittsville in the morning and return there for the post-ride reception/celebration mid-afternoon. There is a choice of routes of 50 km or 80 km and there will be a sag wagon for each route, meeting the cyclists at planning stops on the way. All the cyclists will meet for lunch in Richmond. The registration fee is \$50. All cyclists create their fundraising page on the **SLF** website and donors receive receipts for donations immediately. Funds raised go directly to the **SLF** while the registration fee pays for Lunch, the post-ride reception, sag wagon and administration. Please distribute the poster, attached to this newsletter distribution email, to your friends and families. Thank you! **Stella Val: 613-620-6050.**

GRASSROOTS EVENTS CALENDAR

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

DATE	GRANNY GROUP	EVENT	LOCATION/TIME/CONTACT
Oct. 27, 2026	Unitarian GoGos	<i>Annual Fundraising Dinner at Biaggios</i> – Salad, Rosemary Bread, Meat or Vegetarian Lasagna, Dessert Donations to SLF	BIAGGIOS ITALIAN RESTAURANT 1394 Richmond Road, Ottawa Cost: \$45.00
Sept. 2, 2026	Grassroot Grannies	<i>17th Ride to Turn the Tide The Stephen Lewis Memorial Ride</i> 1-day ride – 50 km or 80 km Registration Fee: \$50	<i>Start and Finish at BUSHTUKAH, Stittsville</i> STAGGERED STARTS: 9-10 a.m. FINISH: mid-afternoon, after Post-Ride Reception Email Stella: stella-val@rogers.com Or go to www.grassrootgrannies.com
Oct. 5, 6 and 7, 2026	Groups from Across Canada and Grandmothers and Partners from Africa	<i>20th Anniversary Gathering – Stephen Lewis Foundation</i> Celebration, march on Parliament Hill, host all our grandmother friends from across the country and Africa.	<i>Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario</i> DAY 1 – Celebration DAY 2 – Education and Learning DAY 3 - Recommitment

REGIONAL CONTACTS

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