GRASSROOTS

FALL 2010

GIRLS, AIDS & EDUCATION: A CRITICAL FOCUS
The picture on page four says it all: three girls discernible in a class overwhelmingly of boys. The struggle to get girls into school has become the educational centerpiece of sub-Saharan Africa.

In fact, so vital is the exercise that the Millennium Development Goal to reach gender equality by 2015 is defined by achieving an equal number of girls and boys in primary and secondary school! Coincidentally, a report just issued by UNESCO shows that the target of equality in the classroom will not be reached in a majority of African countries... a few will reach the target for primary school; virtually none will make it for secondary school.

It’s tough enough to overcome boy preference in many countries, but the prejudice heaped on girls infected or affected by AIDS knows no bounds.

Not only are they kept out of school simply because that’s so often the norm, but the presence of the AIDS virus adds an additional and powerful dimension of exclusion. The girls are required to stay home and look after sick and dying parents; they become the primary caregivers for their siblings; they’re required to do all the household chores; they find themselves working in the fields to provide minimum food security; all the disposable income has been consumed by illness, so there’s no money left to pay school fees; the possibility of sexual violence looms large as girls are left largely undefended, and the stigma to which they’re subjected often shuts the final door on the possibility of education. They’re ostracized, isolated, rejected.

And yet, school is a kind of panacea for these same young girls. All the studies show that even a few years of primary school gives girls a much greater chance of earning a better income as an adult, staying healthy, and above all, becoming good mothers.

But the greatest boon for a girl coping with AIDS in the family is to learn about prevention for herself, to learn how to prevent infection, to learn how the virus is transmitted. School is the best possible place to grasp the details of safe sex.

I remember sitting through a grade five class at David Livingstone Primary School in Harare, Zimbabwe, as the teacher used a ‘Life Skills’ course to teach the kids about HIV/AIDS. The boys snickered from time to time, uncomfortably. The girls listened with unbridled intensity. As we all know, girls are hugely, disproportionately infected... often by a ratio of two to one or three to one compared to boys. I was persuaded that the girls in that grade five class had a far greater chance of withstanding infection.

At the Foundation we’re obviously convinced of the right of every child to an education. But for the girls infected or affected by AIDS, education assumes a far greater place in life.

In fact, it could be seen as the arbiter of life or death.
WHAT WE DO

The Stephen Lewis Foundation supports grassroots organizations working to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Since 2003, we have funded more than 300 projects in 15 countries. The staff and volunteers of these tremendously effective organizations are unwavering in their commitment to save lives, provide succour, and restore hope in every home, classroom and community. They provide education and counselling about HIV prevention, care and treatment; distribute food, medication and other necessities; reach into the homes of the sick and vulnerable through holistic home-based care; help children orphaned by AIDS and other vulnerable children gain access to education; and support grandmothers who are overwhelmingly the caregivers for their orphaned grandchildren. In addition, these organizations share ideas, strategize for change, and build unified networks across the African continent.

HOW WE FUND

We know from experience that the fastest and most effective way to get funds into the hands of those who need them most is through small, committed, community-based organizations. These organizations are saving countless lives and transforming communities, and are poised to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa. Our initial grants range from $10,000 – $35,000 and as organizations grow in strength and capacity, our funding can grow with them. Our Field Representatives visit every organization to assess its connection to the community, its ability to implement programmes and its financial accountability systems. We communicate regularly with the staff of each funded organization so we can ensure that our funding is sensitive, responsive, flexible and promotes sustainability.
“Every AIDS orphan who completes his or her primary education represents a vote for a better future. It will be these children’s votes that eradicate corruption, improve the educational system, eliminate poverty, and stop HIV/AIDS’s insidious destruction.”

From The Price of Stones by Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, Founder/Director of Nyaka and Kutamba AIDS Orphans Schools in Uganda
I. Why do so few girls orphaned by AIDS attend school?

Every child has a right to education. Our partner organizations tell us that their governments mandate schooling, at least through the primary grades – but even in countries with supposedly free basic education, school-related expenses can often exceed the annual income of a family affected by HIV/AIDS. As the staff from Cindi-Kitwe in Zambia explain, schools ask the child’s family to cover the cost of uniforms, textbooks, school supplies, food and transportation. Children who can’t pay aren’t admitted. In large families, heads-of-household have to choose amongst their children, with the result that children orphaned by AIDS – especially girl-orphans – are often kept home to do housework and support the family.

Invariably, the gender gap increases at the secondary school level because higher grades cost more. Access to education suffers further when a child’s parents are ill or have died, or when caregivers feel overwhelmed with day-to-day survival tasks. Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, Founder/Director of the Nyaka and Kutamba AIDS Orphans Schools in Uganda, says, "Girls get hit from all sides. They are the caretakers of other children and their guardians, and they are often forced to work as servants or marry against their will. Though both sexes are subject to sexual abuse and child-trafficking, girls are more frequently victimized.”

Thandanani, a project in South Africa, has identified the common hurdle of acquiring parental death certificates, children’s birth certificates and other legal documents in order to receive government entitlements and enter school. Obtaining these documents can be a daunting process, requiring help to navigate the system. Without an organization like Thandanani to help, many children would be left behind.

Take Hellen Namanya in Uganda. Several years ago she described her efforts to attend school. “My parents died when I was very young. I suffered a lot… I stayed with my uncle, [then] my grandmother. When I was 9, my grandmother put me in [a government] school but after two weeks, they sent me home because I couldn’t pay the school fees. Then my aunt took me to this school for orphans [Nyaka]. My uncle wanted to refuse but I told my aunt that Nyaka helps people who are helpless. I really thank the Nyaka director and the donors. In the future, I want to help others by becoming a teacher at Nyaka School.” The best news is that Hellen’s story doesn’t end there. Hellen is now in her second year of high school, still with Nyaka support, and she still plans to become a teacher.

II. How do you keep girls orphaned by AIDS in school once they start?

Access to education means more than just being admitted to a school. For poor children affected by HIV, succeeding in school year after year is much harder, even if they try their best. It requires a holistic response that includes the challenge of providing school materials, emotional guidance and support, school uniforms and food. Our partners know that children can’t study on an empty stomach, and that the food they get at school may be the only meal they eat all day.

Enabling children orphaned by AIDS to attend school requires support to the whole caregiver family. For example, caregivers can re-arrange the family chores so that children (meaning mostly girls) aren’t required to fetch water and do other household duties in the morning that will make them late for school. To address this issue, many organizations work with caregiver families, involving them as local colleagues.

When the International Trust for the Education of Zambian Orphans (ITEZO) provides an orphaned child with educational support, it also provides the child’s family with vegetable seedlings. ITEZO also encourages students to develop their own vegetable gardens as an out-of-school activity to improve their nutrition and benefit other members of their family.
Lubofu Women Club in Northern Zambia supports orphaned children in primary school with school fees, exam fees and a uniform. Almost invariably, the uniform is the only set of new clothes that the child gets all year. The children say they love going to school because the uniforms make them feel the same as their non-orphaned neighbours. Lubofu also supports older children to attend secondary school, but because the fees have increased dramatically they have had to turn away most deserving applicants.

FOST in Zimbabwe gives block grants to local farm-based primary schools, in exchange for their pledge to waive school fees for orphaned and vulnerable children. Chiedza, also in Zimbabwe, embarked on an after-school tutoring programme last year after it became clear that many of their local schools had stopped functioning. When children started coming to their centre for afternoon lessons, Chiedza added a nutritional meal and HIV education. Knowing that many girls are likely to stay home during their menstrual flows, they also provide teenage girls with sanitary pads. “We do the best we can,” explains Chiedza’s director Marko Ndlovu. “Every bit of support helps.”

III. How does being in school prevent HIV infection and stigma?

For girls, simply being enrolled in school protects against HIV, particularly at the secondary school level. Girls who attend school are more likely to learn about HIV and less likely to have sex at an early age.

If families are functional, reasonably healthy and have enough income to pay the requisite costs, then all their children – including the girls – are likely to go to school and to perform well. Ripples, our partner in Meru, Kenya, explains that this is why they take a family approach. Ripples works to “strengthen and empower household support systems” in order to reduce the impact of HIV. They provide micro-loans to caregivers to generate income, while they offer direct support for the children’s continued education and health care. With more income on hand, girls aren’t forced into early marriage or transactional sex. Ripples adds training on child rights and HIV prevention, in the belief that expanding access to this type of education will benefit orphaned childrens’ own health and self-sufficiency in the future.

Special support is often needed for children who are already HIV positive. Ripples offers treatment monitor- ing and support, as do many projects. TWIP in Northern Zambia, started focusing on HIV-positive teens some years ago. They went door-to-door to look for these young people, as most were kept at home by guardians who felt that they were wasting their money on school fees since the children would die soon anyway. Even with SLF support, it is often difficult to reintegrate these children with their peers in school. TWIP tries by working directly with the headmasters and youngsters on a one-to-one basis. In addition, they offer group activities so the teens don’t feel so stigmatized and alone. But as Bridgette, who has been HIV positive since birth, can tell you, this is an uphill battle.

When one of SLF’s Field Representatives first met Bridgette, the teenager said that she wanted to become a doctor or a nun – she didn’t know which – but most of all, she wanted to go to high school like other girls her age. Four years later, Bridgette explained that, thanks to TWIP, she attended three years of high school until her caregiver died and her grades began to fall. Then Bridgette was forced to move in with another relative who lives farther away and treats her badly. Bridgette is always the last to get food in the household and there usually isn’t enough left over for her to eat. TWIP has intervened again – trying to find another place for her to live and get her enrolled in a vocational programme. TWIP hasn’t given up, and neither has Bridgette.

IV. What happens after girls complete their basic education?

Our partners try to keep children orphaned by AIDS in school as long as possible. For example, Nyaka School in Uganda reports that, over the last two years, all but one of its grade 7 students who sat for the national exam passed with all As and Bs. Now they attend secondary school on scholarships provided by Nyaka. By 2012, Nyaka plans to have its own high school that these students can attend for free, with the remaining places open to paying students.

Unfortunately, not all organizations can provide such an in-depth service. In addition to offering direct support for some orphaned children attending school, the Young Happy Healthy and Safe programme in Eastern Zambia responds by working with local government and community leaders to motivate students, who have been forced to leave school, to return. They also provide education to a large number of young people on sexual and reproductive health, including HIV.
Here’s an example of another straightforward and inexpensive initiative. One of Cindi-Kitwe’s board members started a career guidance programme, in which professionals meet with students to offer insight into their particular fields of work. But the biggest problem for most families, and for our partner organizations, is that these higher grades are so expensive. Sadly, this forces organizations to select only a few deserving youngsters for secondary school support.

As an alternative to high school, Umoyo initiated a residential training programme for girls in Lusaka, Zambia. Girls orphaned by AIDS, some of whom are themselves HIV positive, are chosen by their communities to take part in the programme. Over 400 girls have participated thus far. Following graduation, more than 80% engage in further training, find employment, or run a small business – opportunities that enable them to provide food and school fees for their younger siblings. With education and economic assets of their own, these girls are better equipped to stay safe from, or cope with, HIV.

The testimonies you hear across the continent are compelling. When visiting women who had received entrepreneurship training from the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), our Field Representative couldn’t write quickly enough: “SWAGAA rescued me from darkness… I have gained financial skills. I know if I’m making profit or loss. I now have a bank account and I didn’t think I would ever have one. They taught me many things. I earn money to take my children to school…. My life and lifestyle at home has changed. I have tested so I know my status. I know how to sew and have a sewing machine. I make uniforms for young girls. I feel empowered.”

These stories reflect the ingenuity of the projects we fund, and are proof that they know what it takes to turn the tide. They simply need to be supported to do so much more.

Our Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign Coordinator, Joanna Henry, travelled with the Caravan at the beginning of the tour. Here are some excerpts from her Caravan journal to give you a taste of this remarkable community experience.

Joanna talks about Regina and Nkulie (pictured on the front cover) – the first of three grandmother and granddaughter pairs to travel on the Caravan – who are from Tateni Home Care Nursing Services in Mamelodi, South Africa. From September 7th to October 2nd, they travelled to 16 cities in Atlantic Canada, Quebec and Ontario, spoke at 33 community-organized events, and gave innumerable media interviews. Joanna writes:

Dear Readers,

I’ve been on the road with the Caravan now for four days, three provinces, six events and four beds and I already feel I have enough stories to fill an entire novel or two.

I’ll start with an introduction of the individuals who currently make up the crew of the AfriGrand Caravan.

There is Jack – a retired long-haul truck driver who volunteered to drive a van full of women from one end of this country to the other, the embodiment of patience and kindness. The Canadian Auto Workers union (CAW) not only found this gem of a driver, but offered to cover all of his meals and lodging along the way. (Not to mention the fact that the CAW negotiated with Chrysler for the donation of our van.) We are hugely thankful.

There is Louise, our nurse (and a Canadian grandmother from Ujamaa Grandmas in Calgary, Alberta). She will be on the Caravan until Montreal. If you were to mix warmth, feistiness and competence in a blender, you would get Louise!

African grandmother Regina (68) is a powerhouse, just crackling with energy. You don’t need to know that...
she has been nursing for 30 years, raising grandchildren and working as the Executive Director of Tateni to recognize that you are in the presence of a formidable woman who gets things done.

African granddaughter Nkulie speaks as a client of Tateni. She has been affected by HIV/AIDS with a trauma so recent and so profound that it is a potent reminder of the pain, challenges and triumphs dealt with by so many young people in African communities.

There are also all the individuals in our host communities who have worked so tirelessly to put together successful events. They welcomed the Caravan with such overwhelming kindness and infectious enthusiasm that it energized and touched each of us to our core.

Tonight, though, I am compelled to talk about Nkulie – a remarkable member of the Caravan. Nkulie is 17. Nkulie lost her mother eight months ago. Nkulie is being asked to speak publicly at every event.

I try to imagine what it takes to mourn the loss of your mother – still so recent – and get up twice a day, in the company of complete strangers, and talk about your inner life.

I have had the extraordinary privilege over these past four days to witness some of Nkulie’s personal journey while on this Caravan. Each day, she has taken a different approach in her speech: trying out a new message, experimenting to find her voice.

On one occasion she chose to educate students on HIV and AIDS, telling them “it doesn’t choose based on your colour, your money, your country; anyone can be chosen.” She closed her speech by encouraging students that “this is not the end of hope. How do you think the cure will eventually come? How do you think hope will come? By helping each other, sharing ideas with each other, communicating with each other globally.” She held out her hands to the room full of students and the impulse to reach back was palpable.

Today, in a breathless moment of courage, Nkulie spoke about her mother. She started this way: “Today I am standing before you, as brave as I am, to speak to all of you. I want to tell you that I lost my mother not even a year ago to HIV and you cannot imagine what this means.”

She spoke about losses that were hard to explain. The pain of seeing something in a shop she wanted to buy and going home and telling her mother about it. “Of course she is your mother so she will say ‘I will get that for you’ and even though you know she can’t, you know she loves you, and you know you have shared this with your mother.”

She spoke of the vulnerabilities and desperation that children endure when they lose a mother. How boys often end up in gangs so they can earn money for the toddlers at home and girls must find ‘sugar daddies’ so they can have food for school.

“Those of you who have children, tell me – when they cry, what do they say? They say ‘mom’ ‘mom’ ‘mom’ so I tell you, it is not easy to lose a mother.”

Nkulie counts herself lucky to be under the care of an organization like Tateni that feeds her, provides counselling, and helps her to focus on her goal of becoming a lawyer. Nkulie has the devoted love of her brother and grandmother (who is now raising her) and she credits them for “always standing behind me.”

That’s what happened today in a small room in Sackville, New Brunswick. A 17 year old woman stood up, had the courage and generosity of spirit to share this precious piece of herself with a room full of people – who had gathered with an intent to listen – and by listening, walked out of that room transformed.

Tomorrow the Caravan continues its journey, as do we all. I am, however, so grateful I have a few more days of sharing the road with Nkulie and Regina.

Good Night,
Joanna

For updates, local events and information, go to stephenlewisfoundation.org/caravan.
A Dare to Remember is a campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation – engaging Canadians in powerful acts of solidarity to raise funds for grassroots organizations turning the tide of AIDS in Africa.

Join the Movement. Register your Dare today.

DOING A DARE IS AS SIMPLE AS ONE, TWO, THREE... FOUR!

1. **Find your Inner Dare!**
   What would your friends pay to see you do? What are you afraid to do? What bad habit would you really like to quit? Still need ideas? Check out ‘50 Dare Ideas’ on www.adaretoremember.com

2. **Announce your Dare**
   Register your dare at www.adaretoremember.com and create your own easy-to-use fundraising page. If you need help or more information, contact us at dare@stephenlewisfoundation.org or 1-888-203-9990 ext. 252

3. **Network like Crazy**
   Tell the people you know about your Dare: your family, friends, colleagues, schoolmates. And then think outside the obvious: your book club, sports team, faith community, neighbours, and parents’ friends.

4. **Reach your Fundraising Goal**
   Set your fundraising goal and keep updating your progress. Be sure to tell people when your Dare is about to happen and when you’ve completed it. Remind them about the cause. Trust us. They’ll be inspired to donate!

**WHAT’S YOUR DARE FOR AIDS IN AFRICA?**

**ACTS OF COURAGE**
What are you most afraid of? Heights? Public speaking? Dyeing your hair a crazy colour? Robin faced her fear of flying and got on her first plane since 1962 to visit her grandchild!

**INGENUITY**
What would your friends pay to see you do? Bellydance? Write a novel in a day? Paint a masterpiece?
Jack Layton, leader of the NDP, busked for five hours on a downtown Toronto street corner.

**DETERMINATION**
What’s your worst habit? Need an incentive to give up coffee or run your first marathon? Tamai dared to quit smoking AND wear a superhero cape!

**STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY**
What’s your idea of a community event? Hosting a dinner party with African food? Organizing a park clean-up? Speaking publicly about HIV/AIDS? Hundreds of students from Simon Fraser University in BC engaged in dares in their classrooms, on campus pathways and in the president’s office!
A Powerful Act of Solidarity

By taking on a Dare, by participating in the Dare campaign, by raising funds, by reaching out to family and friends, Canadians are joining the communities of people in Africa who are saving lives and restoring hope.

Acts of Courage

In Africa, many incredibly courageous children live in ‘child-headed households’ after their parents have died of AIDS. Community-based projects support them by finding foster parents, counselling them through their grief, and providing the necessities of life.

Ingenuity

In South Africa, one creative project is working miracles with children orphaned by AIDS. These traumatized yet resilient children bang drums, dance, write songs, and find solace through the musical expression of their grief.

Determination

In Swaziland, grassroots organizations are reaching into the most remote, rural areas. They brave inclement weather and difficult terrain and either walk or cycle to deliver HIV testing, health care and counselling to those who do not have the strength or resources to make the often long journey to a clinic.

Strength in Community

In Malawi, many grandmothers are living in crowded, make-shift and often leaky shelters. One community project decided to tackle this problem, engaging and equipping young people with the skills to identify families in need and do the necessary repairs.

Join the Campaign – Get Materials – Start Fundraising Today!

www.adaretoremember.com
1-888-203-9990 ext. 252
From May 6–8, 2010, hundreds of African grandmothers from 13 countries travelled to Manzini, Swaziland, for the historic African Grandmothers’ Gathering. It was an extraordinary opportunity for them to stand together, share their experiences and concerns, and claim their place on the international stage as experts in the struggle against HIV and AIDS.

“It was an exciting event. A time to share our experiences as elderly parents and see what the HIV pandemic has done to elderly caregivers. It made us feel that we are not alone in our suffering and our struggles. At the cultural evening, after a long day of workshops, you could sense that all the agony was gone out of the grandmothers. They were interacting as if they had known each other for years. They were all in a happiness, laughter and singing/dancing mood. It was highly therapeutic and healing – I could see it just by looking at each of the grannies. Some were toothless, but they were laughing and smiling.”

— Christina Mllingi, Kimara Peers, Tanzania

As an outcome of the Gathering, the grandmothers created the Manzini Statement – a clarion call to the world for recognition, greater resources, legal protections and a richer quality of life:

“To the international community we say: true sustainability is in the hands of grandmothers and other community activists. We call on you to deliver on your promises. We have reached a real turning point in the struggle to subdue the AIDS pandemic. Now we are seeing the growing impact of our joint efforts, the need for increased and consistent resources is greater than ever... We are strong, we are visionary, we have faith and we are not alone. Together we will turn the tide of AIDS.”

Forty-two Canadian grandmothers also travelled with the Stephen Lewis Foundation to Manzini to attend this historic gathering. These women travelled as delegates of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and carried with them a message of support, solidarity and unwavering commitment on behalf of the thousands of women in Canada who are active in this campaign. They stood, sang, marched and danced with hundreds of African grandmothers in the spirit of global sisterhood. But more than that, they listened and bore witness to a burgeoning network of African grandmothers that stretches across sub-Saharan Africa into every home, school, church and community.

They came home more acutely aware of the critical role African grandmothers play in resurrecting families and communities and turning the tide of the AIDS pandemic.

“Before Swaziland, I understood in my mind the courage of African grandmothers. After meeting them, hearing how many children one had lost, or watching an old hand gently soothing a baby, I now know in my heart the true meaning of our work: nothing is more important than amplifying the voices of these amazing, indomitable women.”

— Lisbie Rae, Grandmothers of Steel, Hamilton ON

The next issue of Spotlight on Grassroots will feature the African Grandmothers’ Gathering, with stories and images from the perspectives of both African and Canadian grandmothers. Stay tuned!

If you would like to invite a Canadian grandmother who attended the African Grandmothers’ Gathering to speak in your community, contact us at campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org or 1-888-203-9990 ext. 230.
The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign now has over 240 groups from coast to coast to coast! The dedicated and creative women of the Campaign have been fundraising and advocating for African grandmothers for over four years. Thanks to their incredible efforts, the Campaign has now raised over $10 million to support grassroots projects run by and for African grandmothers and their grandchildren who are turning the tide of AIDS in Africa.

And that’s not all! Throughout communities across Canada, the women of this Campaign have made the ‘title’ of Grandmother synonymous with strength, social justice and abiding solidarity. Thank you and congratulations to the Canadian grandmothers – you are truly inspirational!

DARE TO DINE IS BACK!

Last year, as part of A Dare to Remember, grandmothers challenged Canadians to join them in a Dare to Dine. The dare was resoundingly accepted – over 240 dinners were served in your communities and $339,000 was raised for African grandmothers and the children in their care.

Building on the success of last year’s events, Dare to Dine returns with all proceeds supporting the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. If you are interested in holding a dinner, we are here to help! We have staff and volunteers on hand to answer questions, help register your dinner and send you materials for your event – including a new video message from Stephen to share at your dinner. Call us at 1-888-203-9990 ext. 252. We also have lots of materials available online such as posters, recipes, logos, fundraising tips and more! Please visit www.adaretoremember.com.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Interested in joining a grandmother’s group in your area? Or how about inviting a few of your friends to start your own group? We are here to support you every step of the way!

We are happy to answer your questions, provide you with material and ideas to help you get started, and best of all – connect you with the incredible women who make up this Campaign.

Email us at campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org or call 1-888-203-9990 ext. 230.
DARE TO WEAR LOVE & GIVE A DAY

DARE TO WEAR LOVE

It started with a chance meeting in 2009 between SLF Executive Director Ilana Landsberg-Lewis and Hoax Couture designers Jim Searle and Chris Tyrell.

Both Jim and Chris became convinced that they could (and should) do something meaningful to support the community-based organizations that are working so hard to save lives and restore hope in sub-Saharan Africa.

The result was Dare to Wear Love – the wildly creative and heart-warming closing to last year’s Toronto LG Fall Fashion Week.

Dare to Wear Love showcased the designs of 25 fashion designers in one of Canada’s most fashion-forward events – to raise awareness and funds for the grassroots organizations turning the tide of AIDS in Africa.

Now in its second year, an even more spectacular event is in the works for Dare to Wear Love 2010. Once again, the runway show will mark the closing of LG Fashion Week on October 22nd.

Dare to Wear Love will bring together the worlds of fashion, music and dance. This is a meaningful, beautiful and fun event you won’t want to miss. Please visit www.daretowearlove.com to learn more!

The GAD Campaign is almost entirely volunteer driven and a terrific example of how Canadians express their global solidarity with the 33 million people in the world living with HIV.

This year the GAD Campaign is encouraging its supporters to become ‘Give a Day’ leaders in their own communities, enlisting their colleagues, community members and families in the campaign. Funds raised go to grassroots African programmes through the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignitas International.

Just imagine the impact. The average daily income in Canada is $175 – equivalent to a full month’s pay for one home-based caregiver, whose work will touch the lives of at least a hundred people over the course of that month.

Give a Day. It’s global solidarity and local solutions to support the resilient African response to the AIDS pandemic. To Give a Day, visit www.giveaday.ca.

GIVE A DAY

It is such a simple yet powerful concept: a day’s pay from every working Canadian to support people living with HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

That was Dr. Jane Philpott’s challenge to her colleagues at Markham Stouffville Hospital in 2004. Jane started the Give a Day Campaign (GAD), and chose the Stephen Lewis Foundation as one of its beneficiaries – for which we are profoundly appreciative!

Since then, this grassroots initiative has spread to the medical and legal communities across Canada, raising $2.5 million to fund effective community-based organizations that are turning the tide of HIV and AIDS.
Our Fiscal Year

Since 2003, we have provided over $39 million to support more than 300 community projects (and almost 700 initiatives) in 15 African countries. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. The Stephen Lewis Foundation’s financial statements are audited annually by Cowperthwaite Mehta Chartered Accountants. Audited statements are available upon request, and more information about our CRA reports and our administrative costs is available from our website (www.stephenlewisfoundation.org). You can also view our financial information on the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation’s charitable number is 89635 4008 RR0001.
December is just around the corner!

Here’s an idea. Let’s collectively decide – as caring Canadians – to add more meaning to our holiday giving.

And here’s another idea. Let’s do this by making a donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to honour our family, friends and colleagues – and help sustain communities that are working so hard to turn the tide of the AIDS pandemic.

This year, we offer you two extraordinarily beautiful holiday tribute cards: a folding card featuring the Heideveld Children’s Choir from the Music Therapy Community Clinic in Cape Town, and a postcard with ‘gogo’ Maria and children from the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust in South Africa.

Make a single donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation or, if you would like a bundle of five beautifully-designed cards, we suggest a minimum donation of $60.

Both our tribute cards contain a holiday greeting and a short description of the Foundation’s work.

Place your orders now to avoid disappointment. Or go electronic this year! You can send your holiday cards as e-cards by making an online donation.

World AIDS Day Finale to the Dare Campaign

Do you have a question for Stephen Lewis about AIDS in Africa? Stephen’s Dare (the culmination of the Dare to Remember Campaign) will see him answering questions from across Canada on the eve of World AIDS Day during ‘The Great Canadian Conversation about AIDS in Africa’. In late November, we will host an interactive conversation with Stephen, and we would love you to join Canadians from coast to coast for the discussion!

Visit www.stephenlewisfoundation.org to submit your question and for more details.

THE GREAT CANADIAN CONVERSATION ABOUT AIDS IN AFRICA

HOLIDAY TRIBUTES