



Chronology of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

January 18, 2006

[Stephen Lewis Foundation issues press release](#) calling grandmothers “the unsung heroes of Africa” and announces forthcoming campaign.

March 7, 2006

SLF launches Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign at [press conference](#) in Toronto and declares intention to hold a [Grandmothers' Gathering](#) just prior to the XVI International AIDS Conference. Speakers at the press conference included Stephen Lewis, Adrienne Clarkson, Shirley Douglas, South African nurse Rosina Letwaba and grandmother Lucia Mazibuko (both affiliated with the Gogo Grannies, a grandmother support group based in Alexandria Township). At the time of the press conference, there were **six groups** of Canadian grandmothers active in Canada.

March – August, 2006

Campaign gains momentum – from March to August, 34 new grandmother groups form across Canada. Canadian and African grandmothers collaborate with SLF to plan Grandmothers' Gathering.

August 11-13, 2006

SLF holds [Grandmothers' Gathering](#) in Toronto on the eve of XVI International AIDS Conference; 300 African and Canadian grandmothers attend. The Toronto Statement summarizes the key points from the 3-day event. SLF premieres [Grandmothers: the Unsung Heroes of Africa](#), the first film in a trilogy about SLF's support to grassroots HIV/AIDS initiatives.

October 2006

Number of grandmother groups doubles after the Gathering, with more than 100 registered groups across the country.

March 8, 2007

One year anniversary of campaign – there are 145 grandmother groups in Canada, and more than \$800,000 has been raised. SLF launches [Gathering Report](#) and [DVD set](#).

May 11, 2007

[Nine African grandmothers from four countries visit](#) Toronto and meet with granny groups in four Canadian cities – Calgary, Saskatoon, Ottawa, and Halifax. They attend the premiere of [A Generation of Orphans](#), the second film in SLF's trilogy. More than \$1 million has been raised for the Grandmothers Campaign since it began.

July 23, 2007

Grandmothers Campaign website goes live. www.grandmotherscampaign.org



September 8, 2007

[Grandparents Solidarity March](#) on Parliament Hill is attended by 500 Canadian grandmothers (organized by Ottawa-Gatineau network with Canadian Grandmothers for Africa: A National Advocacy Network). SLF brings two South African grandmothers from the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) to participate in the march. Elizabeth Mataka, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, also takes part in the march.

October 18, 2007

[Eight African grandmothers from four countries visit British Columbia](#) to meet with groups in Vancouver, Victoria / Sidney, Nelson and Kamloops. SLF launches [Women: the Face of AIDS](#), the third film in SLF's trilogy. There are more than 180 grandmother groups raising awareness and funds from coast to coast.

February 1, 2008

SLF holds an organizational development workshop for regional representatives of grandmother groups. There are nearly 200 grandmother groups in Canada. To date, the Campaign has raised well over \$2 million for grassroots HIV/AIDS initiatives that support grandmothers and orphaned children.

February 25 – March 12, 2008

First ever [educational trip for a delegation of 12 Canadian grandmothers](#) to SLF projects in Uganda, South Africa and Swaziland.

March 18, 2008

Grandmothers Campaign reaches \$3 million in revenue.

July 6, 2008

Julie Coultas, Grandmothers Campaign Coordinator, embarks on Great Granny Road Trip, visiting groups in cities from Toronto to Vancouver.

September 11, 2008

The first of 19 Grandmothers groups from 5 provinces across Canada plays "Good Words for Africa", a fundraising Scrabble® game tournament. All proceeds go to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

October 2008

The Grandmothers Campaign has grown to include over 200 groups, involving between 5,000–10,000 people, and more than \$4 million has been raised.