As this issue of Grassroots was going to print, a remarkable thing happened at the United Nations. For the first time in the 63-year history of the UN, the 192 member states voted unanimously to create a new international agency for women.

It will have its own Under Secretary General, a potential budget of $1 billion a year and sufficient operational capacity on the ground to change and enhance the lives of women worldwide. It’s an astonishing development.

It comes to mind at this moment for two reasons. First, because inevitably grandmothers, especially the grandmothers of Africa will be among the beneficiaries. In fact, whenever arguments were being made about the need for the new agency, the predicament of grandmothers was always raised. It’s a testament to the reputation grandmothers have gained on the international scene that they played such a major role in this most extraordinary global initiative.

Second, and equally important, is the speed with which the women’s agency came to be. It was first recommended in November of 2006, and less than three years later, it was conclusively endorsed. In the annals of multilateralism, that’s the fastest pace of change I’ve ever encountered.

But that very pace of change shows what can happen in extraordinarily short periods of time. And that has profound resonance with the Foundation because that’s exactly what’s happened to us ... a kind of miraculous conversion in the last three to four short years.

In July of this year, I travelled with Foundation colleagues to South Africa and Uganda, visiting HIV/AIDS projects in the field.

The trip was exhilarating. The projects we visited are written up in this issue of Grassroots. Every single one of them was memorable for the change that had occurred in such a short period of time.

At their outset, the projects struggled. They were beset by such intense illness, poverty and episodes of despair as to defy the possibility of success. Grandmothers and orphans together limped from day to day. But after prolonged intense support from the Foundation, each and every one of them has turned the tide. They’re flourishing; they’re joyful; they’re self-reliant; they’re confident; they’re hopeful. It’s truly something to witness.

And that’s why the Turning the Tide Campaign makes such sense. And that’s why we have launched ‘A Dare to Remember’ so as to raise the additional funds that will support many similar projects with the same astonishing results.

I find myself, every time I write these letters, verging on boastfulness. I have to learn to contain that impulse. But I must say that the sensitivity and respect that the Foundation shows toward the projects is deeply, deeply appreciated. Time and again, African women said to me “No one treats us as decently as the Foundation does”.

So think up a wildly creative (or even more prosaic) “Dare” for the special week this month. Round up the financial support from your friends. Recognize that you’re helping to demonstrate — just as the women’s agency demonstrates — that with determination and resources you can change the world, almost overnight.

Stephen Lewis
Chair of the Board
A DARE TO REMEMBER: DO A DARE FOR AFRICA

SIGN UP FOR A DARE, DARE A FRIEND AND SPREAD THE WORD...

WHAT IS A DARE TO REMEMBER?

We’re thrilled to announce the launch of A Dare to Remember, a nationwide challenge that invites Canadians to take on dares and raise money for HIV/AIDS in Africa. During Dare Week (October 17-25), people are doing dares, signing up for dares and daring everyone they know to take part! It’s fun and easy; choose a dare (see p.5 for ideas) and then ask everyone you know to sponsor you. We’ve got lots of great resources to help you with your dare – check out the ‘Fundraising Tools’ section of www.adaretoremember.com.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Across Africa, every single day, ordinary people – grandmothers, women, children – have been pushed to the limit by the AIDS pandemic, but still find the strength to bring hope and real change to their communities. This is your chance to be a part of something big: take the challenge and help transform lives. If you can’t do a dare yourself, you can still take part: dare a friend, donate to someone else’s dare and spread the word to everyone you know.

The closing show of this fall’s Toronto LG Fashion Week will combine the “creativity and glamour of the fashion industry with its passion to make a difference in the world.” Organized by Hoax Couture and the Fashion Design Council of Canada, Dare to Wear Love will take place on Friday, October 23, and will feature original designs using African fabrics from 25 of Canada’s top designers. The clothes will later be auctioned off, with the proceeds going to fund community HIV/AIDS initiatives through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Visit www.daretowearlove.com to learn more!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Doing a dare is simple:

1. Pick your dare. (Can’t think of an idea? See page 5 or try our online dare generator!)
2. Sign up to do your dare at adaretoremember.com. Can’t set up your personal fundraising page? We’ll do it for you! Call us at 416-533-9292 ext.252 or toll-free at 1-888-203-9990 ext.252.
3. Ask your family, friends and colleagues to sponsor you.
4. Spread the word through Facebook, Twitter, e-mail and through word of mouth.

Rapper k-os is daring to go back to his first job and work a shift at The Bay’s toy department!

www.stephenlewisfoundation.org
Here are just a few examples of the amazing dares that people are taking on as part of A Dare to Remember. What will your dare be?

Andrew Silbiger’s family dared him to clean up his Toronto, ON basement during the Dare week. If he doesn’t, he’ll have to personally match every donation he receives! His goal: $200.

Gary Dobko of Calgary, AB will dare to wear a wetsuit and inflatable arm bands everywhere he goes, every day, for a week! His goal: $500.

Nine-year old Esther Stewart of Ottawa, ON, will climb the equivalent of the CN Tower by taking stairs everywhere she goes until she has reached 1,776 steps. Once she has reached her goal, she’ll travel to Toronto and take the elevator to the CN Tower’s observation deck to check out the view. Her goal: $1,776.

Vancouver, BC medical residents Melissa Anne Noel and Meghan Kelly are cycling 250km from Vancouver to Seattle from October 16-18 for their dare as the M&M Team. Their goal: $1,000.

A group of Katimavik volunteers based in Charlottetown, PEI are daring to learn the dance to Michael Jackson’s ‘Thriller’ and perform it in random public locations every day during the Dare week. Their goal: $1,000.

SLF staffer Joanna Henry is daring to write and perform a stand up comedy routine at a Toronto comedy venue… despite her paralyzing fear of audiences! Her goal: $2,000.

Gary Dobko of Calgary, AB will dare to wear a wetsuit and inflatable arm bands everywhere he goes, every day, for a week! His goal: $500.

Grant Johnstone of Brampton, ON is daring to portage a large canoe through 5km of Toronto’s busy downtown core, hopefully raising some eyebrows and some cash in the process. His goal: $500.

Kristin Roe of Halifax, NS is officially raising for her dare during the week of October 17-25th. Her dare? To swim the English Channel in June 2010! Her goal: $100,000.

Heather MacKenzie of Edmonton, AB, is daring to jump off Victoria Falls in Zambia. Although she is at the prospect of a 111m drop down to the Zambezi River below, she is convinced it will be a worthwhile experience for a worthwhile cause! Her goal: $10,000.

Angela Quinlan is a member of Peter Cochrane’s Grannies and an avid race-walker. She is daring to take on the Dublin Marathon on October 26th. Her goal: $1,500.

A group of students at Carson Graham Secondary School in North Vancouver, BC are daring to hold a Scrabble marathon in both official languages. Their goal: $1,500.

Chloe Corcoran of Saskatoon, SK is planning to make her friends feel cozy and welcome by hosting a dinner featuring their favourite ‘comfort foods’. Her goal: $1,000.

Students at McGill University in Montreal, QC are organizing an “art attack” — hundreds of students will come together to form a human piece of art on the campus’ main lawn. Their goal: $2,000.
What You Can Do

Sign up today to take part in A Dare to Remember. Register your dare online at www.adaretoremember.com and get your family and friends to sponsor you. Here’s a list of ideas to help you get started:

1. Dare to dine: host a dinner party and invite all of your friends
2. Dare to give up caffeine, sweets or alcohol for a week
3. Dare to eat only local food or go vegetarian
4. Dare to dye: cut your long locks, shave your beard or try a new hair colour
5. Dare to quit smoking
6. Dare to take the plunge: bungee jump or skydive
7. Dare to turn off the TV or put away the video games for a week
8. Dare to drive: get your drivers’ license
9. Dare to dive: learn to swim and try some laps at a local pool
10. Dare to write: try your hand at a short story or write your memoirs
11. Dare to date: ask someone out or take your partner on a surprise outing
12. Dare to don a superhero costume and do good deeds for a week
13. Dare to run: do a 5km, 10km, half marathon or full marathon
14. Dare to clean: keep things spotless if you’ve got a reputation for messiness
15. Dare to create a human chain: hold hands across a major landmark
16. Dare to read War and Peace, Ulysses, or another classic you’ve never read
17. Dare to put away the Blackberry for a day or give up texting for a week
18. Dare to go the distance: spin, swim, walk, run or bike a set number of kilometres by yourself or as a team (ie. the distance from Cairo to CapeTown!)
19. Dare to leave the car at home – walk, bike or take public transit instead
20. Dare to go a week without shopping or eating out
21. Dare to dance: try learning tango, salsa, hip hop, tap dance and more!
22. Dare to draw a crowd: be a busker or a street performer for a day
23. Dare to get your school involved: hold a talent show or rent-a-student day
24. Dare to host a games tournament: poker/ blackjack / Trivial Pursuit
25. Dare to declutter: clean out your garage and hold a yard sale

For more ideas, we dare you to visit: www.adaretoremember.com
WHAT WE DO

The Stephen Lewis Foundation supports community-based organizations working to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Since 2003, we have funded more than 300 projects in 15 countries. These grassroots groups are the lifeline for their communities: they provide counselling and education about HIV prevention, care and treatment; distribute food, medication and other necessities; reach the sick and vulnerable through home-based health care; help orphans and vulnerable children access education and work through their grief; and support grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren.

HOW WE FUND

Our funding model is based on a simple but powerful idea: when you put money directly into the hands of communities, great things can happen. We’ve worked to create a new way of funding that is sensitive, responsible, flexible and avoids bureaucratic red tape.

Our Field Representatives visit each project to assess its connection to the community, its ability to implement programmes and its financial accountability systems. Our initial grants range from $10,000 to $35,000. As the projects grow, our funding can grow with them – we often provide larger grants when an organization increases in strength and capacity.

Your support means communities transformed:

- Hundreds of thousands more children attending school, accessing proper nutrition, and receiving the counselling they need to cope with the loss of their parents. Last year alone, SLF supported more than 200,000 orphans and vulnerable children.

- Grandmothers across Africa raising their orphaned grandchildren with greater access to health care, nutritious food, emotional support, and the resources they need to plan for their grandchildren’s future.

- More community health workers trained to travel from house to house to distribute medication, counsel families and nurse the sick.

- Strengthened networks of local leaders and people living with HIV and AIDS speaking out against stigma and discrimination in their communities.

- Women who have been subjected to sexual violence receiving emergency reconstructive surgeries, HIV testing, counselling and vital psychological support and economic empowerment programmes so that they can earn a livelihood when they return home to their communities.

African communities know what needs to be done. What they need are the resources to make it possible.

Our challenge is clear: we want to help projects to scale up, fund more innovative initiatives, and support the efforts of those who are working to turn the tide of AIDS. Find out how you can get involved at www.stephenlewisfoundation.org.

Paying it forward has become a catch phrase in North America — but in Africa, these words often come to life in amazing ways.

Look, for example, at Justine, Richard and Robert Ojambo, three handsome, bright and impoverished little boys, orphaned in Uganda when their devoted mother Phoebe died of AIDS. Inspired by her dreams for them, Justine sought the help of a Dutch missionary so that he and his brothers could attend school.

The boys excelled. With the missionary’s help, they not only survived and graduated secondary school, they won scholarships to European universities. The brothers might have stayed in Europe, but they came back to Uganda to work with impoverished rural women and children. In 2003, the brothers founded the Phoebe Educational Fund for AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable Children (PEFO), in their mother’s name. “In serving others, we are remembering her,” Justine said.

They began with a microfinance project for women, but Justine was nagged by the desperation of the orphaned children in Jinja, where PEFO is based. The Fund began to set up self-esteem clubs for the children, then to pay for school fees, uniforms and food. PEFO is now supporting more than 300 orphans and vulnerable children — and 200 grannies who care for them — and Justine happily reports “They have turned their lives around.”

The SLF has been a part of that turn-around. Not only has the Foundation bought a brick-making machine for PEFO, to build houses for grannies who were living in dilapidated, leaky shacks, but Canadian grandmothers themselves, on their visit to Jinja last year, pitched in and helped build a new brick house for one of the grannies. One of the newly rehoused grannies, 80 year old Margaret Isiko, told visitors how she and her grandchildren would rush outside when it rained lest their leaky house collapse on them. Now they are safe, dry and happy in a sturdy home.

PEFO’s huge organic gardens — spinach, onions, chives and more — are pesticide free and contribute to the organic compost that in turn, nurtures new crops.

And those new houses, built of bricks from the SLF machine — how are the recipients chosen? Simple. The grandmothers themselves decide whose need is greatest.

Paying it forward. It’s an idea that, community by community, could turn the tide of destruction and begin, instead, an African renaissance.
To read about the Blue Roof Wellness Centre, the clinic outside Durban that was founded by Keep A Child Alive South Africa just three years ago to serve the desperately poor and highly HIV-affected local population, it might sound like any other comprehensive and bustling health centre. To understand its impact, though, you’d have to see Patricia’s smile, and taste the delicious beef and barley stew that Stephen and Aissatou (SLF Director of Programmes) savoured on a recent visit.

The stew is part of Blue Roof’s philosophy. Every client, every visitor, is welcomed with a hot meal. That bowl symbolizes Blue Roof’s commitment to holistic health care. It means that nutrition is as important as medicine, and emotional warmth is as real and significant as a full belly.

Blue Roof is a terrific symbol — its distinctive building is a former nightclub, and the gaily painted rooms testify to its spirit of optimism. Its free programmes are rapidly growing to meet the needs of a population that is 40 per cent HIV positive. In addition to its voluntary testing, provision of ARVs to 1,150 adults and 30 children, a dietician, adherence counselling with a pharmacist, monthly food parcels for the indigent, addiction support groups, youth peer education and psychosocial counselling, Blue Roof tries to rebuild the shattered sense of community. The shared meals are part of that strategy.

Patricia’s smile is another “secret weapon.” Fifteen years ago, weak and close to death with a plunging CD4 count, Patricia was carried by friends to a hospice. She desperately wanted to live, for the sake of her little daughter (now a university student). After three months in hospital, Patricia turned the corner and went home. She fought through the devastating initial side effects of ARVs and now is a vibrant picture of health and purpose. Her brilliant smile radiates joy of life.

As a home-based care worker for Blue Roof, Patricia is passionate about her work. To watch the tenderness and respect with which she bathes a sick man in his home is to feel her devotion almost through your own skin. "I’ve been there, done that, bought the T-shirt!" she jokes. “Look at me now. I’m healthy and beautiful!”

Trained by the Red Cross, Patricia worked first as a Blue Roof volunteer and then was hired as staff. Now she aims for further education so she can become a youth counsellor.

To watch the tenderness and respect with which she bathes a sick man in his home is to feel her devotion almost through your own skin.

It’s not precisely true that Africa’s women are indomitable. They can certainly be crushed by extraordinarily cruel circumstances. But what Patricia’s generous vitality illuminates for us is the amazing resilience and the almost limitless possibilities of the human spirit, given even a modest helping hand.
Can Canadians really help turn the tide of a deadly disease ravaging a continent? It seems impossible — until you meet our African partners. Their amazing resilience and the rippling impact of their efforts can shake your assumptions about the limits of the possible.

Maybe you did meet “Jaja” (Granny) Sylvia Nalongo when she came to Canada three years ago to attend the SLF Grandmothers’ Gathering in 2006 as a representative of St. Francis Health Care Services. At that time, St. Francis in Uganda was a busy health clinic, with a small side project caring for and educating 30 orphans and supporting five grannies.

You’d remember Sylvia’s strikingly lovely face and her radiant smile — and you might not have guessed that she had cared for four of her adult children as they slowly died from AIDS, was now raising their five orphans, and had recently been diagnosed as HIV positive herself.

The emotional, physical and economic burden might well have crushed any one of us. But Sylvia, seizing hope, energy and inspiration from the Gathering, discovering and linking with so many African sisters, and connecting with her Canadian counterparts, went back home and changed her world.

She worked with St. Francis to convene a meeting of 300 grandmothers to learn what they most needed and wanted. No surprise there: beyond the urgent daily necessities (food, bedding, clothes), the grandmothers wanted secondary education for their grandchildren.

When Jaja Sylvia visited Canada, it was her first opportunity to realize the common grief and shared purpose that linked her with so many other African women.

In the three years since, life for hundreds of grannies and hundreds upon hundreds of orphans has changed dramatically. (One grandmother in the programme, Beatrice, is caring for 26 grandchildren on her own). A savings and loans fund, run co-operatively by the grannies, has spurred a startling growth in vegetable gardening, pig raising, beadwork and crafts. The programme is run with considerable shrewdness and pragmatism by groups of grannies who share decision-making, make sure that loans are repaid along with interest and pay out the dividends at the end of the nine month cycle. Along with their rise in living standards come renewed hope, better health, and brighter prospects for the grandchildren.

Something less tangible is also happening here. When Jaja Sylvia visited Canada, it was her first opportunity to realize the common grief and shared purpose that linked her with so many other African women. Lifting her eyes from her daily burden to a wider horizon has given Sylvia a way to understand her own plight, put it in a larger context, and take action on behalf of herself and others. That’s power. Jaja power. It can and will save Africa.
In the breathtakingly beautiful Valley of 1000 Hills, with its vast and serene vistas, an invisible enemy stalks the scattered villages. It even reached remote Lower Molweni, where a bustling and wiry schoolteacher called Maria has lived her whole life and raised eight children to adulthood. Then, one by one, she tended them as AIDS took seven of them into their graves.

Maria, at 64, does not give in to grief. She is raising six beautiful little grandchildren. She volunteers at the local day care centre (“Every day, I jump, I sing and dance with the little ones — maybe that’s why I’m so strong!” she exclaims with a laugh) and counsels villagers who, like herself, are HIV positive. Maria has a huge love of life and her people. After she discovered Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust and its holistic diagnostic, treatment and home care programmes, she was determined to help others seek treatment to keep on living. “I love my nation!” she says. “I like to go talk nicely with the sick ones. I don’t like them to suffer as my children did.”

Hillcrest uses words like “tenderness” when it describes the care it provides. Indeed, caregivers in the new 24-bed Respite Unit for the critically ill are required to spend two days and a night in the Unit before beginning their jobs, in order to develop empathy. Hillcrest, at 17 years of age, has become so dynamic and sophisticated that the SLF will now pair it with a younger organization in the new Capacity Building and Learning Initiative. Hillcrest’s philosophy is to work at the grassroots level, providing services only as requested by the local community. Empowerment of patients is the constant goal. With granny groups, bead-working shops, five registered nurses, 50 trained home-care workers and hundreds of clients — many being dramatically pulled back from the brink of death — Hillcrest is a compelling centre.

You can’t help but feel, however, that its secret engine is the remarkable and indomitable character of the people it serves. Maria, for all her positive energy — she mocks herself when she tells her age: “64! I’m o-o-old!” she laughs, pulling a face — has depths of sorrow. At every moment, she rises above that sadness. It is only when she ends her conversation with visitors from the Foundation that you can catch a quick glimpse of it. “I have one son left,” she says. “My life is all right.” And for one split second, a shadow of heart-breaking pain crosses her face.

In that moment is revealed our motivation for keeping at this struggle until we truly help Africa to turn the tide.
Voices from the Frontlines: Jessica Horn

An Interview with Jessica Horn, SLF Field Representative Based in Sierra Leone

SLF: What strikes you most in your work as a field representative?

JH: When you go to visit community groups, you’re bearing witness both to the suffering that’s there but also to the tremendous efforts of people to actually tackle that suffering and to make something positive of it.

One of the things that I love to do when meeting with community groups in Africa is to explain that the money is actually primarily raised by people like Canadian grandmothers. People often can’t believe it and they say “What!?” They usually have to translate into their local language because people are saying “What? Grandmothers!?” It’s fantastic, because I feel as though it changes the dynamic. People often imagine that money comes from some government or some really wealthy individual somewhere. So I think it’s very empowering for them to realize that it is individuals and groups of women in Canada who are actually funding a lot of what they do.

SLF: What are some of the greatest needs in the communities you visit?

JH: I think one of the most crucial needs in the communities I’ve visited is access to basic, quality, respectful services. Even in places where there’s been a lot of investment by foreign donors in supporting HIV/AIDS infrastructure, you go to the outskirts of the capital city and you see people who can’t even go to a basic health care centre and find painkillers, or even a nurse. People need to be able to go to services where they get quality counselling and care.

One thing that community activism does is to address the needs of people in their everyday lives.

SLF: What do you see as the role of women in the response to HIV and AIDS?

JH: African women, like any women, are varied — some are passive, some are activists, but actually quite a lot have the sense of commitment to changing the situation of people in their own families and communities. They have a sense of responsibility to actually step up and transform their societies.

Individuals and people in communities are rising up to say, “We need a change, we can’t wait 15 years until it goes through all the bureaucracy to happen, we want it now.” That is why I think that it is critical to invest in community level mobilizing. It’s an act of solidarity — it’s respectful of the work that people are already doing to rise up and try and change the conditions that they live in.

I think what you find in a lot of organizations that are trying to lead a response to HIV and AIDS is that they’ve forgotten women and then they try to add it on after the fact. Of course that doesn’t work, because what it means is that you’re not beginning from the point of understanding that HIV and AIDS is spread along the fault lines of gender inequality. So the Foundation is really investing in a serious way in women’s energy and women’s activism around HIV and AIDS, including the issue of violence against women. I think this is really critical and is a massive contribution to this cause.
**The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign**

**Dare to Dine**

Across the country, Canadian grandmothers have challenged people to join in hosting 1,000 dinner parties as part of A Dare to Remember. If you’re interested in holding a dinner, we’re here to help! We’ve got staff and volunteers on hand to send materials for your event and to help you register your dinner online. Call us at 1-888-203-9990 ext.230 and we’ll help you get started. You can also find recipe ideas for delicious African dishes and fundraising tools (downloadable posters, logos, fact sheets and more!) online at www.adaretoremember.com.

**Granny Advisors**

We are fortunate to have four volunteer Grandmothers Campaign Advisors across Canada available to assist the work of granny groups and provide guidance to the Foundation. The Advisors’ role complements the work of the SLF staff, regional resource groups and other regional leaders involved with the Campaign. The Granny Advisors are:

- Hannah Diamond, British Columbia
- Ellen Monaghan, Alberta
- Penny Lawler, Ontario
- Jane Earle, Atlantic Canada

**Speakers’ Training**

This past August, the Foundation hosted the first-ever ‘train the trainers’ session for grandmothers involved in the Speakers’ Bureau. Grandmothers from eighteen communities in seven provinces came together to network, share strategies on training speakers and learn more about the Foundation’s work and the Turning the Tide Campaign. To find out who was trained in your area, contact Helen Silbiger at campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org or call 1-888-203-9990 ext.230.

**Granny Conference Call**

On September 14th, Stephen and Ilana hosted the Foundation’s first ever granny conference call. Hundreds of grandmothers called in to listen to Stephen talk about his recent trip to Africa for the Foundation, the new UN women’s agency, and answer questions submitted by Canadian grandmothers.

Stephen’s next conference call will take place around World AIDS Day (December 1st). Stay tuned to the Granny Bulletin for details. To submit questions for Stephen or to sign up for the bulletin, please e-mail campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

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The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign now has more than 220 granny groups from coast to coast. As of June 30, 2009 (the end of our fiscal year) these incredible grandmothers and granddads had helped raise nearly $7 million for African grandmothers and the children in their care. Amazing!
The Grandmothers Campaign would not be possible without the tireless efforts of thousands of grandmothers (and granddads). We asked two dedicated grannies what keeps them motivated after three years of the Campaign:

**JO-ANNE PAGE**
*Toronto Grandmothers Embrace*

When I have a passion, it doesn’t go away. What turned me on to the Grandmothers Campaign initially was my involvement in the Grandmothers’ Gathering – I fell into it and couldn’t believe I was part of it. I was starstruck by the African grannies.

I am energized by the women in my granny group and the fact that I’m able to be part of the speakers’ bureau and go out and tell stories to people who want to learn more.

I’m a lucky grandmother – I’ve got five happy healthy grandchildren. Whenever I start wondering about whether I can keep up my energy and commitment, I remind myself about the African grannies and their dignity, their strength and their will to carry on… how can I not stay totally motivated?

**JOANNE O’SHEA**
*Grandmothers and Granddads Barrie*

It is so easy to keep motivated… I’ve been encouraged by the incredible grandmas in Africa, and the few that I have had the privilege of meeting have been so inspirational.

I’ve also been inspired by the Canadian grandmas that I have met – in my group and in groups like Alliston’s Grandmas Embrace, who embraced me and gave me the tools to get a group going in Barrie. I’m motivated by the fun that we have preparing for and holding events, and I’m grateful to have met people whom I probably would not have crossed paths with otherwise.

I’m motivated by the thrill of knowing that we get to play a small part in turning the tide, and I want to be there at the end when we can all rest.

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**WE’RE READING**


Noted AIDS expert Alan Whiteside, head of the HEARD institute at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa has been researching and writing about the virus for the last 20 years. In *HIV/AIDS: A Very Short Introduction*, Dr. Whiteside has produced an accessible, intelligent look at the history, science and socio-economic impact of AIDS, with a particular focus on southern Africa. Don’t miss it.
JOIN US ONLINE: BLOG, FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND FLICKR!

Check out the official Stephen Lewis Foundation blog and read about the latest news, project updates and feature stories from Africa. (If you missed Stephen's trip to Africa, you can still read all about it and watch videos from the trip online!).

You can also join the Official Stephen Lewis Foundation Facebook fan page, follow us on Twitter (@stephenlewisfdn) and check out photos from the projects we fund on Flickr. We want to hear from you: let us know what you’re doing to raise awareness, hold events and help turn the tide of HIV and AIDS in Africa.

DONATE YOUR MILES

Since 2006 the Stephen Lewis Foundation has used more than 20 million donated Aeroplan miles to facilitate field visits and support projects in 15 African countries, making it possible to allocate more funds directly to grassroots HIV/AIDS organizations. We’ve also used donated miles to bring the voices of African leaders to the forefront through the organization’s first-ever roundtables on psychosocial counselling, orphan care and home-based health care, uniting projects from across Africa to share their learning and experience. Thank you so much for making this possible!

GIVE A DAY

Give a Day to World AIDS encourages Canadians to give one day’s pay on or before World AIDS Day (December 1st) to support community-based organizations in Africa through the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignitas International. Since 2004, workplaces, schools and communities have taken part in Give a Day, raising well over $2 million for AIDS in Africa. This year, host your own Give a Day Harambee, inspired by East African community gatherings where people pull together for a common purpose. To learn more, visit www.giveaday.ca.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Across sub-Saharan Africa, grandmothers are holding together the continent by caring for millions of children who have been orphaned by AIDS. We also know that they share a common concern: what will happen to my grandchildren when I die? They want to ensure the security of their grandchildren’s future: to know that they will be cared for, that they will stay in school and stay HIV-free. By making a gift in your will, you are investing in the children of Africa and in the important work being done by grassroots organizations to turn the tide of AIDS. To learn more, contact Penny Lawler at 416-533-9292 ext.241, or complete the reply form in this newsletter and return it to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.
Since 2003, we have provided over $34 million to support more than 300 community 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. 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.

**Programme Funding by Mandate Area**

- People Living with HIV and AIDS: 18%
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children: 30%
- Grandmothers: 33%
- Women: 19%

**Thank You!**

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to the dedicated web designers, media professionals, photographers, film editors, crafters and hordes of talented people who have generously given their time and talents to make our work possible. In our office alone, we have over 50 dedicated volunteers helping out with projects, communications, data entry, grandmothers and community events – the equivalent of 8 full-time staff members! Thank you for all you do!
**HOLIDAY TRIBUTES**

**Are you looking for an alternative to buying gifts this holiday season?**

Celebrate your friends, loved ones and colleagues by making a donation in their honour to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Your contribution will sustain the incredible work being done by community-based organizations to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.

This year, you can choose to send **printed holiday tribute cards** or the **new holiday e-card**. Both versions feature a photo of the Heideveld Children’s Choir from the Music Therapy Community Clinic in Cape Town, South Africa and include a short description of the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s work.

We also have a beautiful version of our **holiday tribute insert card** featuring gogo Maria from the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust in South Africa. Insert cards are available in bundles of five (with a minimum donation of $60), and can be placed in a greeting card or stocking.

**HOW TO ORDER:**

To place an order, please visit our website ([www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)) or call 416-533-9292 ext.0 or toll-free at 1-888-203-9990 ext.0. To send an e-card, make an online donation and fill out the form once you’ve completed your transaction. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of personalized holiday tribute cards.

**MONTHLY GIVING: A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE**

Monthly donations are the bread and butter of the Foundation. They allow us to plan ahead and provide a secure future for the community-based organizations that are doing so much with so little. By making a monthly gift, you give them certainty and it makes all the world of difference to Africa. So we’re putting forward an unabashed appeal: If you are a monthly donor, consider increasing your contribution. If you are a regular donor, consider donating monthly to help us plan and sustain our project support.