“Through their energy, commitment and compassion, grassroots organizations are creating an impact no government can do without.”

WINSTONE ZULU

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The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – the premier financial vehicle for subduing the AIDS pandemic – is in deep trouble. The next round of grants has been postponed from this year to next, and the available money has been dramatically cut from $1.5 billion to $800 million. The donors are sabotaging the Fund. There’s no escaping the consequences: significant numbers of additional – absolutely unnecessary – deaths of women, men and children.

To listen to the debates within the various donor countries about the cutbacks, is to be nauseated by the collective hypocrisy. The same donors who are rhapsodic about finding dollars for Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya can never seem to dredge up the money necessary for global public health.

All of this inevitably reminds me of the stark difference between the views at the top and the views at the bottom. You’d never find such casual abandonment of desperately sick people amongst the grassroots – the communities on the ground.

What people so often fail to recognize is the astonishing spirit of community that sustains whole villages as they confront the virus. And it’s not just a matter of goodwill, or the depth of human feeling that drives people to look after each other. It’s also knowledge, sophistication and experience.

At the heart of the response at community level lies a world of expertise. The self-defined international experts – academics, epidemiologists, financial wizards with the World Bank, some UN agencies and NGOs – always assume they know what’s best. I don’t think that’s true, and certainly all the evidence coming from the work of the Foundation suggests otherwise. The pandemic has been raging for 30 years. The international experts have little to write home about. We’ve lost millions of lives through indifference, passivity and a remarkable lack of urgency. If it weren’t for the rallying amongst the affected communities themselves, the toll would be even greater.

I’m unself-consciously proud of the work that the Foundation does at the grassroots. We’ve learned to honour the experts, almost invariably women, who work home by home, village by village. They do the caring and the counselling and the feeding and even the distribution of drugs. They watch for resistance and side-effects. They monitor opportunistic infections. They make sure the orphans go to school. They nurture the grandmothers.

They are the true experts. Not for them the endless, mean-spirited debates about dollars. For them, the struggle for survival is everything. The joy of a touch, a smile, a life saved, is how to turn the tide.

“We’ve learned to honour the experts, almost invariably women, who work home by home, village by village.”

Stephen Lewis
Chair of the Board
Stephen Lewis Foundation
Jackson Kaguri founded Nyaka School in 2001 in the rural Ugandan village of his birth. Nyaka is just one of many grassroots organizations across Africa doing groundbreaking work in orphan care and education. The Foundation has supported Nyaka’s work in rural Uganda since 2004, making them one of our longest-standing partners in the struggle to turn the tide of AIDS.

SLF: What are some of the unique aspects of educating orphaned children?

JK: We have two schools – Nyaka and Kutamba – with about 500 students, all of them orphans. We provide free education and take a holistic approach: we look at the whole child and the obstacles they face.

We are dealing with children who have suffered terrible trauma. Imagine: these children have watched their parents die. Now they come home from school to an empty house. They have to find food and sleep in the dark. These children are walking home from school to nothing. Trauma and nightmares are the biggest challenges for the children.

To help them process their grief, we use music as therapy. Our children sing and use arts, music, poems, drama and play. They are able to write memory books where they learn about what their mum and dad liked. As a result of talking about issues, they are able to cope. These are some of the unique areas we deal with, and we continue to learn every day.

How do you identify students for the schools?

There are so many students, so many orphans, so many needy ... the entire village is so vulnerable. But the number one criterion is to take in the poorest of the poor. We try to keep the girl-to-boy ratio at 65% to 35%, because girls face so many more obstacles.

When these children are given an opportunity, they all graduate regardless of their background. It’s not the books and the bright teachers that make these children really succeed. It’s addressing all those obstacles that they face – with sanitary napkins for girls, health care for the children and for the community, two meals a day, clean water and sanitation, counselling – that propels them to succeed. If the child has peace of mind, they will do well in school.

What are some of the lessons you’ve learned doing this work?

Working in these circumstances, what you hear many organizations talk about is lack of resources. But when you work within a community and you really listen to them they will tell you what is needed. And they will partner with you in doing what is needed to move themselves a step higher. They tell us how to move forward.

Most of our students live with community members, mainly grandmothers. They provide the children with accommodation and safety, they tell stories and teach the local language. If all the children at Nyaka lived in an orphanage setting, they would miss getting all the comforts and guidance and wisdom from these women. So we’ve learned that we need to work with the community and support them in caring for orphans at home.

Where do you hope to see Nyaka in 10 years?

We want to see more of our graduates in the workforce, taking on responsibilities and telling their own stories. We would love to build a secondary school, and more primary schools. Finally, we would like to partner with public schools, where children are still struggling to attend. We want to provide them with the capacity to take in and retain more students, and to train the staff to teach and care for the children the way our teachers do.

Read more from Jackson and other community experts in the “Voices from the Frontlines” section of our website. Jackson’s book, A School for My Village, is available now from Penguin Books.
Helping children heal through play

Based in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, dlalanathi is an organization that works to bring healing and hope to children and their caregivers, using play for communication in communities affected by HIV, poverty and loss. Rachel Rozentals-Thresher, dlalanathi’s CEO, describes how arts-based therapy can help people work through grief. Their innovative work is just one example of how grassroots organizations are using the arts to help children and their families cope with the impact of the AIDS pandemic.

In our province in South Africa, 40% of the population is under 18, and of those children, 26% have lost one or both parents. So that means that there are two things happening at the same time: one is that children have either one parent or no parents and the burden of care gets shouldered by the broader community – either grannies or other aunties and uncles.

The other thing is that so many children are dealing with grief and loss. Grief has so many levels of impact. In addition to losing a loved one, the child may have to move to another town, or join another family, or start a new school. These children have fewer people to support them, and when you add to that poverty, illness and caring for ill people, it becomes quite a complicated process and a hard place from which to work.

Helping children to work through their grief is one of the significant challenges, but it is also only one piece. It’s not just therapy. You can provide psychosocial support by helping a family to care for their children by ensuring that they have their basic needs fulfilled. Children need adequate nutrition, they need adequate health care and need access to education, but at the same time, the most critical dimension of parenting is emotional first – children need constant care, support and development throughout their life.

Helping children cope with loss

Children usually either hide their feelings and push them away or throw them out there. The child doesn’t stick up a sign and say, “I’m sad” or “I’m hurting.” Instead, they start pushing boundaries, or not looking after themselves, or fighting with other children, or dropping out of school. Often, you’ll find that a child starts acting out in ways that people don’t necessarily associate with grief, sometimes several months after the loss of a loved one. The danger is that the child is then labelled as bad, or rebellious, and is seen as a burden on the family. You also have to understand that the caregiver is tired and has to be.
listened to, and supported, and heard, as they too are processing their own losses.

At dlalanathi, we try to use creative means to help people see the person and not only the problem. If we want to give positive care, we have to have a positive concept of the child. When we label them as bad, we tend to label their behaviour negatively. When we see them as trying to cope, we try to see what they do right and respond in a caring way.

The journey of loss
The reason we use stories, play, collage and other arts-based workshops when we reach out to caregivers is because we have to engage adults in exactly the ways we want them to engage children. We have to understand the child’s point of view if we want them to know the next steps they need to take in their lives.

When we do doll-making and play workshops with caregivers, for example, we go in and just talk about children, tell stories, and have the people in the workshop make a doll and talk about their own experiences of when they were children. We ask the participants to tell us a story about their doll’s hopes, dreams, and wishes for the world, and then to describe the story of the doll and what it reflects about them. When you’re making something, a lot of processing happens beyond the physical activity. Your hands are focused and your mind is free to reflect. I’m not filtering my feelings as much and I’m not justifying it – it just is.

One of the other tools we use is the book of loss: people can make a book or draw a picture, make a collage. They walk through the journey of loss and tell their story. It’s the same as making a doll – you think about how you’re going to represent it – but it’s deeper than just telling the facts of the story. At the same time, it’s also easier to think about what colour you’re using than it is to think about what happened. You make the book and you share it with a group. The other participants’ role is just to listen and reflect back any strengths they see in you or in the story, such as highlighting someone’s courage or compassion or perseverance. It’s an amazing process because it really levels the playing field – everyone comes to understand that we’ve all been through loss.

“The best part about stories is that they place the authority in the heart of the listener. We help children find a way to tell their own stories and to understand that they are not alone.”

Play allows people to suspend reality for a while in order to look at their grief and explore their emotions, but not in an overwhelming way. It’s a way of helping people focus on their strengths and how they have coped. It lets them define the hope that exists for them. We trust that hope is there even when we cannot see it. Some of the situations that people are dealing with are very hard – it’s about trusting that you can see your way through it.

Using stories to heal
We often use metaphor and stories in our work. Using imagery – such as dark clouds representing heavy burdens – can be very helpful in letting us understand what people are going through when they can’t put it into words. For children, sometimes they can’t say “I’m feeling depressed,” but they might say “I feel like breaking things.” Or they’ll say they feel like they’re bursting or that a fire is burning inside them. The images allow you to explore what they are actually feeling.

In the same way, talking about a story is often much easier than talking about your own life. We ask people “What in this story is like you? What is not like you?” I can express what’s in my heart, I can find it in the story. The best part about stories is that they place the authority in the heart of the listener. We help children find a way to tell their own stories and to understand that they are not alone. They learn to ask questions that will help strengthen their ability to cope: “Where can I go when I feel like this? What can I do to feel better when I’m experiencing this problem? Where is it safe to go? Who can I talk to?”

What makes us human
Coping with loss and grief is both complex and really simple – when we’re in the most pain, all we want to know is that someone will stay with us. Using play activities helps to occupy us in reflecting in a different way, and allows us to be present with people without becoming overwhelmed with what’s happening. Part of our role as therapists and counsellors is just being present with people and not trying to fix the situation – just be there with them and help them think about what they need. It is all part of the process of coming to accept loss: to accept that there’s pain and that we don’t get to avoid that, but that we all experience it at some point. And I suppose that’s what makes us human.
People are empowered, people are looking forward. To me, that is turning the tide.

It is very important for the Foundation to see the work firsthand and learn about each community’s needs so that we can fine-tune the support we’re giving. We collaborate closely with the organizations we fund to help them build the capacity of their staff and volunteers. So while there might be some areas that need work, we won’t cut off the organization because they’re missing a professionally-trained project coordinator, for example. I have heard from our partners that this makes the Stephen Lewis Foundation a different kind of donor. We are constantly learning from our African partners and strive to build relationships based on great mutual respect and trust.

AIDS has touched my life personally, and to be involved in efforts to turn that around is really deeply meaningful and fulfills everything that I am. I’m originally from Uganda. I’ve lived in Kenya, I’ve lived in Lesotho, and I’ve lived in Canada most of my life. I’ve lost many family members to AIDS, and saw what that was like ten years ago, when people were dying in huge numbers. Access to medication was non-existent. It was a time when the social support networks weren’t fortified, so there were few support groups and stigma levels were through the roof. It was a really difficult time to be HIV-positive. This is part of the reason why it’s very enriching to be on the ground, to meet African women who are my age and see what they are living through on a daily basis, and then to be part of the Foundation in doing this work.

I often think of a group of HIV-positive women that I met with in Tanzania, in Dar es Salaam. I was lucky enough to go there two years in a row, so I was able to see what the project funding meant from one year to the next. The first year, they were getting money to start small income-generating projects. The next year, their businesses were running, and all of the women wanted to tell me for themselves what they were doing.

Most touching for me was hearing them say, “Now we can eat. Now we eat three meals a day, the kids have a good breakfast before they go to school, they have lunch and they have supper, and I’m doing that.” It was an incredible story of restoring dignity. Everybody wants to be able to feed their children and make sure they get off to school the way they should. And these women were able to do that through their small businesses and thinking ahead, and reinvesting. It wasn’t big sums of money, but it was changing lives.

It was one of the most touching meetings I’ve ever been part of, and so celebratory. People are empowered, people are looking forward. To me, that is turning the tide.

Watch the full interview on our website at stephenlewisfoundation.org/video.

DONATE YOUR AEROPLAN MILES

Whether you’re a frequent flier or your miles are expiring soon, every donated Aeroplan Mile makes a difference. Donate your miles to the Stephen Lewis Foundation and help bring African grassroots leaders here to visit Canadian communities, send field representatives like Ky’okusinga to visit and assess projects firsthand, and bring together community workers to share expertise on everything from counseling to orphan care. Thank you so much for making our work possible!

To donate your Aeroplan Miles, visit stephenlewisfoundation.org/aeroplan.
IN LOVING MEMORIAM

“They are women and men who live within the community and know, through everyday experience, when to provide food or medicine to a patient. Through their energy, commitment and compassion, they are changing the course of the pandemic. It is time to acknowledge that these grassroots organizations are creating an impact that no government in the region can do without.” – Winstone Zulu

WINSTONE ZULU 1964–2011

Winstone Zulu, one of Zambia’s most prominent AIDS activists and a long-time friend of the Foundation, passed away on October 12, 2011. This tribute by Stephen Lewis was read out at a candlelight vigil for Winstone in Lusaka, Zambia, on October 14, 2011.

The loss of Winstone Zulu is indescribably painful. He was such a wonderful friend to all of us. I was in Lusaka, Zambia, in early August, and spent some quiet, precious time with Winstone. He was lying in bed at Hope House, sipping soup, terribly frail, knowing what was coming, but consumed as ever with the struggle against the AIDS pandemic and the quest for social justice to which he had devoted his entire life.

My mind went back to our first meeting in 2002 when I was the UN Envoy, and Winstone headed the Association of People Living with AIDS. I remember thinking at the time: where did this incredibly articulate and intense man come from? How did he find the strength to be so critical of government; to be so unflinching in his demands for treatment and care for everyone who needed it? Where did he find the emotional and physical reserves to be so principled and uncompromising?

I was, quite simply, stunned in his presence. And I became an instant fan. And more than that, over time a friendship grew.

Winstone never, but never tired of fighting the good fight. He was the ultimate activist. Whether he was on the platform at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, acknowledged by Nelson Mandela; whether he was leading the debate on AIDS and disabilities at the AIDS conference in Mexico City; whether he was auditing classes at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, and suddenly realizing what an accomplished writer he was, and deciding to use that skill to further the cause of HIV-prevention; whether he was in some remote corner of the United States or Japan or Germany or the United Kingdom educating people about infectious diseases and the urgent need for resources; whether he was forever hammering home the issues – AIDS and tuberculosis, drug stock-outs, outrageous drug prices, not enough money for the Global Fund, the rights of HIV-positive pregnant women – indeed the desperate need for gender equality, the primacy of treatment, home-based care, the plight of orphans and grandmothers, the training of youth advocates – he never tired of pricking the egos of the powerful and championing the rights of the poor and the infected.

And he did it all with that gentle, calm but commanding voice and presence. It was so much a reflection of his community and the people around him and of course his lovely family. Winstone was a son of Kabwe; he devoted much of his time and life to working within his own community. He talked of Kabwe incessantly, of what he wanted to accomplish, of what he wanted to protect, of what he wanted to heal.

They don’t make them like Winstone anymore. He was unique: gifted, dedicated, generous, blessed with the soul of human decency.

As I sat on the bed, holding Winstone’s hand, talking as always about the issues – he never had time for small talk: it was always about the issues – I couldn’t help but think about his legacy.

Winstone was a mentor and inspiration to thousands. He would want all of us never to cease in our collective determination to rid the world of the virus. He fought so hard and so long to stay alive. What a gentle, beautiful, courageous man. I loved him. His country loved him. The best way to honour his legacy is to take his unwavering spirit and in his name defeat the pandemic of AIDS.
In the fall of 2010, the AfriGrand Caravan travelled to 43 Canadian communities, bringing African grandmothers and granddaughters to cities and towns stretching from St. John’s, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia. Throughout the entire trip, Canadian grandmothers and grandfathers, community members and high schools worked tirelessly to put together successful events and welcomed the Caravan with overwhelming kindness and enthusiasm. We are often asked for news about the Caravan participants, so we are delighted to share this update.

Ruth, Rosemary and Maness
Consol Homes Orphan Care, Malawi

Maness, now 19, spoke passionately on the Caravan about how her time in Consol Homes’ Orphans Affairs Unit (OAU), both as a participant and a peer educator, gave her the ability and the strength to continue her studies and spend time mentoring other vulnerable youth in her community. Since the Caravan, Maness sat for her final secondary school examinations – she passed – and continues to work toward her dream of becoming a doctor and returning to her village to practice.

Rosemary, the Malawian grandmother, was known on the Caravan for her infectious laugh and warmth. She continues to care for her grandchildren (four, seven and nine) and three older boys (18, 19 and 20) who lost their parents to AIDS, and remains a pillar of strength for her family and community. Rosemary recently sent us a letter, saying, “We are so delighted to have visited your country and to have been received so warmly by the Canadians. I do cherish the support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation wholeheartedly and wish that the SLF supports more rural community organizations working to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Malawi. I am certain that with the enthusiasm of the people of Canada to help eradicate HIV/AIDS, we shall succeed.”

Ruth, a dedicated Consol Homes Programme Officer for the last eight years, travelled with Maness and Rosemary on their Canadian journey. Her first-hand experience caring for her siblings has helped her in her work with youth in her community, and she continues to build her skills. This year, Ruth trained with REPSI (the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative) in South Africa, an organization dedicated to lessening the social and emotional impact of HIV and AIDS, poverty and conflict among children and youth throughout East and Southern Africa.
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Thandeka and Tsable (Gogo Nde)
Swaziland Positive Living (SWAPOL), Swaziland
Since the Caravan, Tsable (Gogo Nde) has taken on three additional children in her household, and is now caring for ten children. Her HIV-positive grandson Ncamiso is attending preschool, although he has been quite sick, and with SWAPOL’s support, Gogo Nde was able to take him to a hospital in South Africa for treatment. Sizwe, Ncamiso’s brother, was also diagnosed with HIV earlier this year.

As a caregiver with SWAPOL, Gogo Nde has recently taken on additional clients as well. “This is my passion,” she said, describing her work with clients. “I am excited to see new people opening up and seeking assistance. This is very encouraging and it shows that my work is being valued indeed.” Although getting home-based care supplies and kits is challenging, particularly as Swaziland’s economy is struggling, she continues to care for clients in her community, and refer them for counselling and medical care through the mobile clinic.

Despite attempts by relatives to grab their property, Thandeka, her granny and siblings were able to keep their house. And with support from SWAPOL, Thandeka could return to school. Although there have recently been disruptions to the school year due to the country’s economic crisis, Thandeka remains excited at the prospect of continuing her studies and becoming a nurse.

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Relive the AfriGrand Caravan today by watching the short documentary The Women’s Movement Continues on our website at stephenlewisfoundation.org/video.
The Stephen Lewis Foundation’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign is in its fifth year! The Campaign now boasts 245 grandmother groups, including one in the UK! Through their dedication, creativity and persistence, Canadian grandmothers have amplified the voices of Africa’s grandmothers and raised – as of June 30, 2011 – an incredible $13.5 million for African projects.

This fall sees a flurry of activities across the country. Regional gatherings took place in Alberta and BC Islands in September; the Atlantic region met in Halifax mid-October; and Vancouver’s Greater Van Gogos are gathering in early November. Groups are also hosting gala dinners, Scrabble events, craft fairs, speaking engagements and information sessions for new members. Thank you so much for all of your hard work!

A number of groups have recently launched regional newsletters, websites and other tools to help members of the Campaign stay informed and connected. To learn more, sign up to receive the Foundation’s regular granny bulletin by emailing campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

From September 7–9, 2011, Ottawa’s Grassroot Grannies held their annual Ride to Turn the Tide, a 270 km cycling challenge that included 21 cyclists and four support crew. The event raised more than $31,000 for the Grandmothers Campaign. The same week, the Victoria Grandmothers for Africa held their 5th annual cycling tour, raising over $55,000 and counting!

The AfriGrand Caravan had a lasting impact on the African grandmothers and granddaughters who took part in the 43-stop tour. It also had a profound effect on the communities they visited:

The Grand Kids of Nelson, BC, are a group of grandchildren that work in partnership with Grans to Grans Nelson. The group started shortly after the Caravan passed through Nelson. The children make crafts and ornaments, plant trees, and hold cookie sales to raise money for African grandmothers.

Shellbrook Grandmothers for Grandmothers (G4G) of Shellbrook, SK, held a Grandparents’ Day Dare to Dine in September, serving local and African foods and raising over $500. G4G member Nancy Carswell explained that “While the money is important, after meeting Maness, Rosemary and Ruth from Consol Homes during the AfriGrand Caravan tour last year, I believe that what the money represents for people turning the tide on AIDS in Africa is as important.”

After Regina and Nkulie spoke in Sackville, NB, students and grandmothers alike were inspired to get involved in the Grandmothers Campaign. They have started a new group and have been fundraising since!

In Port Perry, ON, residents packed the town hall for an evening of song, dance and powerful speeches hosted by the G-Moms, Port Perry’s grandmother group. The evening ended with the G-Moms declaring their dare – to learn and perform a bellydance routine!

Interested in joining a grandmothers’ group in your area? Or inviting a few of your friends to start your own group? We are happy to answer your questions, provide you with materials and ideas to help you get started, and best of all, connect you with the other incredible women who make up the Grandmothers Campaign. Please contact us at campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org or call 1-888-203-9990, ext. 230, to find out more.
Dare to Dine is Back!

Dare to Dine is returning this year by popular demand, with all proceeds supporting African grandmothers and the children in their care. Whether you’re hosting a dinner party where guests donate the equivalent cost of a night out, holding a wine and cheese party, or throwing an African banquet, Dare to Dine is a great way to bring Canadian communities together while raising funds to strengthen the work of African communities.

We have staff and volunteers on hand to answer questions, help register your dinner and send you materials for your event – including a new Dare to Dine Kit, online fundraising pages, a CD soundtrack for your dinner, a video to show to your guests, menu samples and more! To learn more or get involved, please call us at 1-888-203-9990, ext. 230, or visit our Dare webpage at: www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/d2d.

More Community Events

For Red Week in March 2011, 10 schools from the Halifax Regional Municipality, NS, joined forces to raise $10,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Each school hosted a range of fundraising events – from dodgeball tournaments to talent contests – culminating in an inter-school ‘Acts for AIDS’ benefit concert, which was judged by local radio and television stations. The schools also made a YouTube video, coming together “with one goal, to help turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa.”

On a cold and rainy day in May, Alison Hall hosted her 8th annual Perennial Sale for Africa AIDS Relief in Dorval, QC, raising $2,275. “I made a commitment to hold plant sales for 10 years,” says Alison. “I continue to be amazed at how this foundation has grown and the variety of projects supported.” And we continue to be amazed at Alison’s dedication and commitment!

At Henry Wise Wood School in Calgary, AB, students learning about HIV/AIDS in Africa took on a dare to give up their favourite beverage for the day and donate the cost of the forfeited drinks to the Foundation. As one teacher put it, “Our students understand the importance of being global citizens, and sharing their skills and talents to affect positive change in the world.”
WHAT WE DO

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS in Africa are leading the way in innovative and effective programmes to subdue the AIDS pandemic. The Stephen Lewis Foundation exists to support them. Since the Foundation began in 2003, we have funded over 700 initiatives with 300 grassroots organizations in 15 African countries. These organizations are the lifelines of their communities, addressing issues of poverty, child-headed households, sexual violence, grief and stigma, access to education, healthcare and more.

Just as important as what we fund, is how we fund. With our African partners, we have developed a special model of support. It is firmly rooted in the knowledge that if anyone is going to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa, it’s going to be the community experts – the African carers, counsellors and advocates who are beating back the ravages of AIDS on a daily basis. We have invested in these grassroots organizations, striving to be diligent in the best use of funds and strategic in our support – increasing our grants as grassroots groups grow in capacity, effectiveness and reach.

To learn more about the Foundation’s work, please visit us online at stephenlewisfoundation.org.

SLF UPDATES

At Hope Rising!, the CIBC-sponsored benefit concert for the Stephen Lewis Foundation in May 2011, Alicia Keys, K’naan, Angelique Kidjo, Rufus Wainwright and other amazing artists came together to celebrate the healing power of the arts in Africa. The concert will air on CBC Radio 2’s Canada Live on World AIDS Day (December 1). You can visit stephenlewisfoundation.org/hope to hear it on demand.

Also in May, the Globe and Mail profiled the Foundation’s work in Africa in a special four-page insert. Read it on our website at stephenlewisfoundation.org/globe.

In September, we launched Voices from the Frontlines, a monthly e-newsletter featuring community experts working on the frontlines of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Sign up to get Voices each month at stephenlewisfoundation.org/email-updates.

In February 2012, Dare to Wear Love (dtWL) will take to the catwalk during Toronto Fashion Week, featuring some of Canada’s top designers. From February to May 2012, the Textile Museum of Canada in Toronto will showcase past dtWL creations. Don’t miss it!
When we announced the creation of the East Africa Food Security and HIV/AIDS Fund to address the growing crisis in the Horn of Africa, we didn’t know what to expect. But as always, you have answered with generous support. To date, more than $270,000 has been donated to the Fund.

We are responding to urgent requests from our partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Emergency grants range in size from $5,000 to $20,000 and are being prioritized according to the areas of greatest need, including households with HIV-positive people on treatment, and households with children and grandmothers.

Here are just a few examples of projects receiving emergency food security grants. Kitovu Mobile AIDS Organization in Uganda is providing urgent food support – including staples such as maize flour and rice – to 200 households and 10 schools that have been most severely affected. They are also distributing relief seeds to 160 families to increase their future food supply. PENAF in Kenya is providing flour, legumes, cereal and oil to 80 households as well as water treatment, de-wormers and antibiotics to prevent and treat opportunistic infections and diarrhoeal diseases. And DEWADA in Ethiopia is distributing emergency supplies to 150 grandmother, 100 child-headed households and 100 people living with HIV.

The organizations we support are providing a range of life-saving interventions, helping families and communities keep hunger at bay and increase their ability to feed themselves, now and in the future.

We are deeply thankful to all of our supporters. Your generosity is enabling organizations in Africa to be flexible and responsive as they meet the most pressing needs of their communities.

Kitovu Mobile AIDS Organization in Uganda is just one of many organizations providing food support to children affected by HIV/AIDS and the grandmothers who care for them.

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**LEAH TEKLEMARIAM**

**Director of Programmes**

Leah is a natural fit as the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s new Director of Programmes. Since joining the Foundation in 2006, she has worked as Senior Programme Advisor, overseeing all capacity-building and learning efforts with our African partners. As a Programme Officer, she worked closely with projects in Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

“I have deeply valued learning about the efforts of our African partners and working with them to understand how the Foundation can better support the community-based response to AIDS in Africa,” says Leah. “After all, that is the very reason the Foundation exists.”

With roots that stretch from Ethiopia to Edmonton, Leah is passionate about fostering solidarity between Canadians and Africans in the struggle to turn the tide of the AIDS pandemic.

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DO YOU DARE?

For the past two years, thousands of Canadians have joined the Foundation’s Dare Campaign. They’ve taken on personal challenges and raised funds for extraordinary grassroots organizations in Africa.

You can carry on the Dare tradition and do a dare—this week, this month, right now! Dare yourself to do whatever is challenging or exciting: give up coffee for a week, face your fear of public speaking, learn how to do yoga, organize your workplace to clean up the local park. Engage your friends and family to support the inspiring transformation taking place in Africa. Ask yourself: what would your friends and family pledge to see you do?

Helder and his friends broke the Guinness World Record for the longest dodgeball game, and raised over $6,000. The Martin family gave up their car and raised $1,650. Brandy shaved her head and raised $4,000. And Kathlyn dared to dine and raised $215 in just one night.

This year you can turn your New Year’s resolution into a dare. Whether you resolve to quit smoking, start exercising or learn something new, January is the month to do it! Set yourself a challenge and make your resolution more meaningful by raising funds for communities at the frontlines of the pandemic. African communities have the resolve to turn the tide of AIDS, and you can dare to stand with them.

Join us for the Dare Campaign. Visit darecampaign.ca to watch an inspiring video of darers, learn more and register your dare. You can contact us by email at dare@stephenlewisfoundation.org or by phone at 1-888-203-9990, ext. 223.

A LIFETIME LEGACY

Since the Stephen Lewis Foundation began putting money directly in the hands of communities working at the frontlines of the AIDS pandemic in 2003, we have seen a profound impact in a very short time. By choosing to make a legacy gift, you are ensuring a lasting difference for the children of Africa, and in the important work being done by grassroots organizations to turn the tide of HIV and AIDS.

We know that a decision to make a planned gift is a personal and sensitive one, and have been inspired and sustained by those donors who have expressed their support through a range of meaningful gifts, including bequests, RRSPs and RRIFs, life insurance and securities.

To learn more about leaving a legacy gift, please contact Margaret Wright at 1-888-203-9990, ext. 235, or by email at mwright@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

GIVE A DAY

This World AIDS Day (December 1), help promote global solidarity and support local solutions to the AIDS pandemic by giving one day’s pay to support people living with HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Since 2004, this volunteer-driven campaign has raised more than $3 million for community-based organizations in Africa through the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignitas International. Become a Give a Day leader in your community by enlisting your colleagues, neighbours, family and friends to take up the cause. Together, we can work toward a world without AIDS.

To learn more, visit giveaday.ca today!
**Where your money goes**

**Programmes** (81%)
- Administration (10%)
- Funds Development (9%)

**Where our support comes from**
- **Individuals** (66%)
- **Grandmothers Groups** (11%)
- **Foundations** (10%)
- **Corporate** (8%)
- **Faith Groups** (1%)
- **Other** (1%)
- **Schools and Youth** (1%)

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**Administration**

Administration includes costs such as office space and supplies, communications costs, IT support and equipment, financial oversight, insurance, legal services and human resources support.

Through sponsorships, in-kind donations and partnerships such as Aeroplan’s Beyond Miles programme, we have been able to keep our administration costs low. Our media and creative sponsors have donated online and print ads, graphic design, printing, and newspaper space at no cost to the Foundation. Thank you to all of our sponsors and partners for their ongoing support.

To read more about our administrative costs, please visit [stephenlewisfoundation.org/financials](http://stephenlewisfoundation.org/financials).

**Funds Development**

During a tough economic period when many non-profits have experienced reduced financial support, the Foundation has been able to maintain our funding to programmes in Africa. This is in part due to an increased investment in fundraising capacity, and reaching out to new supporters through initiatives such as Hope Rising! and the Dare Campaign.

**Programmes**

From 2003 until June 2011, we have committed over $54 million to programme spending, including direct support to over 700 initiatives with 300 community-based organizations in 15 African countries. To read more about the projects we support, visit [stephenlewisfoundation.org/projects](http://stephenlewisfoundation.org/projects).

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The Stephen Lewis Foundation’s financial statements are audited annually by Cowperthwaite Mehta Chartered Accountants. Audited statements and more information about our Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) reports and our expenditures are available on our website at [stephenlewisfoundation.org/financials](http://stephenlewisfoundation.org/financials).

You can also view our financial information on the CRA website at [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca). The Stephen Lewis Foundation’s charitable number is 89635 4008 RR0001.

Please call us toll-free at 1-888-203-9990 if you have questions about our financial statements.
HOLIDAY TRIBUTES
THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

December is just around the corner! This holiday season, honour your family, friends and colleagues by making a gift to the Stephen Lewis Foundation – and help sustain communities that are working so hard to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa.

We have two beautiful folding cards available. Both cards contain a holiday message letting the recipients know that a donation has been made in their honour and a short description of the Foundation’s work. Cards are available in any quantity.

How to order
To order holiday tribute cards, please call 416-533-9292, ext. 0, or toll-free at 1-888-203-9990, ext. 0. Or donate on our website at stephenlewisfoundation.org to order printed cards or send a holiday tribute e-card to your friends and loved ones. Place your order now to avoid disappointment.

WORLD AIDS DAY
DECEMBER 1, 2011

On World AIDS Day, December 1, join us as we launch an exciting new initiative highlighting the groundbreaking work of African grassroots leaders who use the arts to promote healing and hope.

These organizations use drama, music, visual arts, performance, street theatre, healing ceremonies and play to help people find solace and support. Their innovative work allows children and adults alike to express and release their grief, eradicate stigma and educate their communities about HIV and AIDS. On World AIDS Day, we’ll celebrate their innovation and success.

Be the first to learn more: sign up for email updates from the Foundation at stephenlewisfoundation.org/email-updates.

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

Want to hear directly from the experts? Join us for our first interactive telephone town hall on Wednesday, December 7, at 7 PM EST. From the comfort of your home, you can take part in a conversation with African experts and SLF Executive Director Ilana Landsberg-Lewis. Reserve your spot today – send your name, email and phone number to rsvp@stephenlewisfoundation.org.