



For Immediate Release
November 1, 2011

ART IS HELPING TURN THE TIDE OF AIDS IN AFRICA – SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERTS TO VISIT VANCOUVER

- WHAT:** *Pressing Times in Africa – Grandmothers take ACTION*, an event hosted by the Greater Van Gogos, a network of more than 20 grandmother groups in Metro Vancouver who are part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. This day-long event features a panel discussion with African experts on how communities are responding to the AIDS pandemic in Africa, and a screening of celebrated South African film *Life, Above All*.
- WHERE:** The Vancity Theatre, Vancouver International Film Festival, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver, B.C.
- WHEN:** Saturday, November 5, 2011, 10am – 4pm
10 am – Marketplace produced by the Greater Van Gogos
1pm – Film: 'Life, Above All', (2010, 100 min.), screenplay by Dennis Foon
2:45 pm – Panel discussion on the ways that communities are responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.
- WHO:** African experts from **dlalanathi**, a community-based organization from South Africa that helps provide healing and hope to children affected by HIV, poverty and loss, including:
- **Mbulelo Wiseman Duma**, Community Support Facilitator
 - **Sithembile Clarice Ndlovu**, Grandmother and volunteer
 - **Thembisile Eunice Zondi**, Grandmother and volunteer
 - **Zahra Mohamed**, Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign Coordinator
- WHY:** Community-based organizations are at the heart of the response to the AIDS pandemic in Africa. Many of these organizations are using the arts – including innovative techniques like doll-making, storytelling, collage and memory books – to help communities to heal from loss and move forward.
- NOTE TO JOURNALISTS:**
- Interviews available upon request
 - Bios, project description and photos available upon request
- MEDIA CONTACT:**
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“Grandmothers in Canada and Africa have become a central force in fighting the pandemic and the Greater Van Gogos are a major part of that effort. There is a remarkable sense of solidarity between them – it’s palpable, and heartfelt, and stems from their shared experience of being mothers and wanting, above all, to secure a hopeful and healthy future for their grandchildren. Together, Canadian and African grandmothers are helping to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS at the grassroots in Africa.” — Stephen Lewis, Chair, Stephen Lewis Foundation.

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Greater Van Gogos’ groups are among more than 240 grandmother groups across Canada and abroad supporting the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. For more information please visit www.greatervangogos.org

Since 2003, the Stephen Lewis Foundation has supported more than 700 initiatives with over 300 community-based organizations in 15 sub-Saharan African countries. For more information, please visit www.stephenlewisfoundation.org.