



Year-End Reflections, Questions and Ideas

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign Call Summary Notes December 19, 2019

Grandmothers groups represented on the call:

Alberta:	Hat Grannies
British Columbia:	VanGogos
Ontario:	Guelph GoGo Grandmothers (4Gs), London Grands
Saskatchewan:	G4G Moose Jaw

As 2019 comes to a close, grandmothers group members called in to share reflections, questions and ideas related to the Grandmothers Campaign and the work of their grandmothers group.

Group Meetings

One group, looking to explore different options for holding group meetings, asked how other groups on the call have chosen to handle group meetings and organization. Some of the different approaches to group meetings shared on the call were:

- Not holding monthly meetings, but meeting ahead of events to plan and organize. This group has a small executive (President, Vice President, Secretary, Event Coordinator) that meets as needed and finds that members of the group are very event focused and like to lend their time in specific ways at events and leading up to events. When the group formed, most of the members were still working, and members' found holding monthly meetings would be too much to fit into busy schedules.
- Monthly evening meetings that typically run from 7-9pm, with the meeting portion wrapping up by 8:30pm and members sticking around to socialize afterward. This group also recently switched from a single group chair to overlapping co-chair terms to share leadership responsibilities and provide additional support to those stepping into leadership roles. The group meets at a member's house and invites anyone interested in potentially joining the group to attend and observe group meetings.
- A group considering switching up their meeting schedule currently has the group executive meet earlier in the month to plan for the full group meeting later in the month so that it runs efficiently and any items specific to the group's executive are handled without needing to involve the full group. However, this does mean some group members are attending two meetings per month, which is a large time commitment.

Group Activities, Fundraising Events and Ideas

New ideas for fundraisers are always appreciated, and some groups are specifically interested in activities for smaller (10 or fewer members) groups. Here are some ideas shared on the call:

- Partnering with a local restaurant (or other business) to have a portion of proceeds for a day or evening donated to your group. For example, Boston Pizza will often donate a portion of proceeds to a grandmothers group for a specific night. Local restaurants may also allow you to sell tickets for dinner on a certain day. This means no cooking or cleaning for your group!
- We've also heard that other businesses have allowed groups to have information or craft tables in-store, or have donated proceeds of sales for one day to a grandmothers group. For example – 10,000 Villages, local bookstores or gift shops, Sobeys and Loblaws (grocery store chains) have allowed some groups to have info and/or marketplace tables in-store.

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- Individuals can create online fundraising pages in honour of their birthday or another special occasion to invite their friends and family to make a donation to the Grandmothers Campaign in their honour in lieu of a present. One Campaign member did this for a 70th birthday with the goal of raising \$700 (\$100 for each decade) and shared the link to her fundraising page on Facebook and by email. She surpassed her goal! (Please get in touch with the Grandmothers Campaign team if you'd like to learn more/get help setting up your own page – we're here to help!)
- A trivia day has been a fun new event for one group. The "Trivia Master" from a local pub ran the day from a local church hall. 15 tables of 4 people competed to win prizes (the idea was for members to invite three friends to form a table/team). Included in the questions was trivia about the SLF/Grandmothers Campaign to raise awareness about the Campaign.



Reflections

Thinking back on 2019, here are some things that participants on the call shared about their groups and the Grandmothers Campaign:

- The energy that new members have brought to the group has been wonderful, and has inspired the group to try new fundraising ideas and produce new crafts (debuted to the group through craft workshops to teach others how to make the crafts). For example, soup cozies and dry soup mixes have been two great new products that sell well together.
- Regional gatherings were great moments to build momentum, connection and enthusiasm among groups.

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Questions about the SLF/Grandmothers Campaign

Now that the children in grandmothers' care have grown into adolescents, how has the support to grandmothers and adolescents evolved since the founding of the SLF and the Grandmothers Campaign?

Supporting young people (of all ages) affected by HIV and AIDS continues to be a major part of our community-based partners' work, as well as supporting the grandmothers and caregivers of youth. As many young people reach adolescence, adherence to HIV treatment, stigma and discrimination, testing and disclosure, sexual health are just some of the issues they face. Young people have expressed that peer to peer support is essential in confronting all of the obstacles to living positively. Because of this, and support from community-based organizations, young people are stepping into leadership roles and are becoming HIV activists. Having someone in their age group to confide in, learn from and relate to is making an enormous positive impact for young people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.

The SLF is committed to amplifying young voices, and if you are subscribed to the Granny Bulletin or either the SLF or Grandmothers Campaign Facebook page, you'll have heard from many of these young people over the past year. At the end of November, the SLF premiered a documentary featuring young leaders and the work of five community-based organizations in Uganda and South Africa. We're looking forward to sharing this documentary with grandmothers groups and the general public in 2020 so that you can use it as a resource within your group and community. We'll certainly share more details about this in the new year. In the meantime, you can learn more about the work young leaders are doing in the [Fall 2018 issue of Grassroots](#). We have shared two short videos featuring young leaders in the recent months. [Click here](#) to watch a short clip from the documentary, and [click here](#) to watch a video from one of our community-based partners in South Africa.

Thank you for a great call everyone!

Join us for the **January Campaign Call on Thursday, January 16th at 12:30pm ET** for a look ahead at grandmothers groups plans and goals for 2020.

Contact the Grandmothers Campaign team at campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org for conference call dial-in details, or sign up on the Grandmothers Campaign website: <http://grandmotherscampaign.org/get-involved/campaign-conference-calls/>