



the Stephen Lewis
FOUNDATION



10 TIPS FOR STARTING A GRANDMOTHERS GROUP

1. Learn about grandmothers

Learn more about the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF), Grandmothers Campaign and the work of community-based organizations responding to HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

2. Start a conversation

Talk to friends, family and other individuals that you think may be interested and gauge their interest in starting and/or joining a group. Contact either an existing group or your local Grandmothers Regional Liaison to connect and learn about their experiences in the Campaign.

3. Invite others to join you

Let friends, family and others in the community know of your plans and invite them to get involved. Host an information session virtually or in your community. Eventbrite, local papers, community email lists are a great way to spread the word.

4. Share what you know

Share SLF video resources and materials as a way to engage new members. Contact us if you need copies of materials or help finding videos and films.

5. Discuss the qualities you would like your group to have

Try to come up with a group name that reflects your group's personality. Discuss your vision and goals. Incorporate the skills and interests of your potential members. This doesn't have to be decided at the very first meeting but should be something you are thinking about. Invite group members to share why they are interested in this work. It is a great way to get to know each other and establish your personal connection to the African grandmothers who are turning the tide of HIV and AIDS in their communities.

6. Roles and responsibilities

No two groups are the same and there is no set 'formula.' Past experience has indicated that having two co-chairs when starting a new group can be helpful. Assign someone to be the primary contact for communicating with the SLF.

7. Logistics: things to think about

Membership:

Do you want to limit the size of your group or have it open to everyone? Will you charge a membership fee (annual, one-time)?

Meetings:

Where will you meet, how often, and for how long? Who will chair, and will you set an agenda and take minutes?

Fundraising:

Are start-up funds needed? A bank account? How will you track your costs and fundraising revenue?

8. Resources available

There are lots! Foundation staff, grandmothers, newsletters, Facebook, regional gatherings and Campaign-wide activities.

9. Register!

Fill in the Group Registration and Membership Form and email it to the SLF. Or register [online](#). A staff person at SLF will contact you to discuss the next steps and welcome you to the Campaign!

10. Be a part of the movement

The Campaign began with only a few Canadian grandmothers groups, and has evolved into a dynamic movement –raising funds and awareness in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Join in solidarity with grandmothers and their community-based organizations who are turning the tide of HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.