



THE KINGSTON GRANDMOTHER CONNECTION

<http://www.g2gkingston.ca>

kingstongrandmotherconnection@gmail.com

Facebook: Kingston Grandmother Connection

Thank you for your interest in the Kingston Grandmother Connection. We are a not-for-profit organization that helps support African grandmothers who are raising their orphaned grandchildren and other extended family members. HIV/AIDS continues to devastate African families and often grandmothers are the only family members left behind to give care to the children. Our group raises funds to provide African grandmothers and orphans in need with medical care and support, adequate food, heating oil for their shelter, school fees and uniforms, and much more.

The Kingston Grandmother Connection was started in 2006 by 4 women from this area: Anne Richards, Marion Abell, Bett Birtwhistle and Donna O'Connor. Today, we number just under 200 contributing members, with 40-60 active members.

Through our fundraising activities, we support 2 charitable organizations which recognize the plight of African grandmothers and their families: HELP LESOTHO and THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION. HELP LESOTHO was founded in 2004 by Dr. Peg Herbert (www.helplesotho.org). THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign was started in 2006 by Stephen Lewis and his daughter, Ilana Landsberg-Lewis (www.grandmotherscampaign.org).

The money we raise is divided between these two organizations. HELP LESOTHO focuses on the specific needs of the Grandmothers, such as psychosocial support, blankets, seeds, solar lights, shoes and clothing for the grandchildren, food distribution, home repairs, and workshops. THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION works through grassroots organizations in 14 Sub-Saharan African countries addressing income and food insecurity, education, gender inequity, violence against women, medical needs and leadership development.

Our operating expenses are covered by a voluntary yearly membership contribution. (Suggested amount: \$20)

During the COVID pandemic, we held small driveway sales and raised \$10,000-20,000 each season. In the past we have held large seasonal markets, walks, concerts, dart nights. We were able to reopen our Fall Market for Africa in 2022, raising over \$22,000.00 on that day. Some members also make direct monthly donations to our charities. We are always looking for new ideas and new members with enthusiasm, creativity and energy to make those ideas a reality.

Currently our meetings are held in person on the first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday). Now that you are on our mailing list, you will receive details of any upcoming meetings via email. We meet September through June. Our January and June meetings have been opportunities to socialize and/or hear speakers. We hope to meet you in person before too long.

Feel free to contact any of the people listed below if you would like more information.

KGC Co-chairs: Deb Ruse (ruse@kingston.net)
Eva Bencze (evabencze@gmail.com)
Membership/New Members: Anne Richards (aer@queensu.ca)

Thank you. Hope to see you soon.

AER/DR 02/2026



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to raising funds for grandmothers living in various countries in Africa. These dedicated and courageous women are struggling to raise their grandchildren, whose parents have died primarily from HIV/AIDS-related diseases. Through the STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and HELP LESOTHO, we help vulnerable children, youth, adolescents and the most amazing grandmothers.

Some interesting facts about us . . .

- Since 2006, our local group has raised almost \$1,000,000 for the STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION and HELP LESOTHO.
- We are the only Grandmothers to Grandmothers group in Canada that funds TWO charities supporting African grandmothers.
- Both the STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION and HELP LESOTHO have been ranked in the top 25 out of 2500 charities in Canada by the Financial Post for accountability and transparency.
- ***Powered by Love***, written by Joanna Henry, tells the stories of our African grandmothers and the Canadian grandmothers' response through the SLF. The book is available at the Kingston Public Library and is for sale at our events and at Novel Idea.