

10 Tips for Starting a Grandmothers Group

1. Learn about grandmothers

Read the materials in this kit to learn more about the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF), the Grandmothers Campaign, and HIV/AIDS in Africa. Read past Grassroots newsletters, visit our website and watch the enclosed DVD. If you have any questions about the work of the Foundation, 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 Grandmother Regional Liaison to connect and learn about their experiences in the Campaign.

3. Invite others to join you

Invite a small group of friends over or organize an information evening in your local community. Put up posters at places like the post office, library, places of worship, schools, etc. Place an ad in your local paper.

4. Share what you know

Show the enclosed DVD and hand out materials about the Foundation. Contact us if you need extra copies of anything in the kit or would like one of our other 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 mem-

bers. 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/AIDS in their communities.

6. Roles and responsibilities

No two groups are the same and there is no set "formula." It might be a good idea to assign a chair and/or co-chair(s), treasurer, secretary, etc. 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 Foundation.

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 Regional Liaisons, websites, newsletters, regional networks, and regional gatherings.

9. Register!

Fill in the Group Registration and Membership Form and fax, email or mail it to SLF. Or register online at www.grandmotherscampaign.org. 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 groups of committed Canadian grandmothers, and has evolved into a dynamic and responsive movement of over 240 groups – raising funds in Canada for Africa’s grandmothers. Every new grandmothers’ group here in Canada increases the capacity of these irreplaceable women in Africa to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in their communities. Officially become a part of the movement by planning your first fundraiser!