



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](http://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](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org).**