



PHOTO: ALEXIS MACDONALD

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

Celebrating the Unsung Heroes of Africa



When the AIDS pandemic swept across the continent of Africa, it took with it the lives of nearly an entire generation of young people—35 million of them perished, leaving their own young children alone and vulnerable. It was the indomitable grandmothers of Africa who stepped in to care for these children, without little or no support.

In 2006, the Stephen Lewis Foundation—a not-for-profit organization based in Toronto Canada—launched the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign to bring urgent attention to the emerging crisis faced by these grandmothers.

A dynamic movement of grandmothers rallied in response. Starting in Canada and now in Australia, the U.K., and the United States, it includes thousands of grandmothers and ‘grand-others’ on several continents. Together, resolute grandmothers in Africa and around the world are reclaiming hope and courageously saving lives.

African Grandmothers

African grandmothers are central to the life of their communities. With little initial support, they stepped up to care for millions of children orphaned by AIDS, sometimes as many as 10 grandchildren in one household. They display astonishing reserves of love, courage and emotional resilience, even while grieving the loss of their own adult children.

Community-based organizations run by and for grandmothers in Africa are an essential and life-enhancing source of support. They provide African grandmothers with funds for funerals, food, health care, school fees and school uniforms for their grandchildren, income-generating programs, grief counselling, HIV testing and counseling for them and the children in their care, essential shelter, and other necessities.

African grandmothers have become the experts on what it will take to turn the tide of AIDS in their communities, stitch back together

the fabric of their families, and reclaim hope. With a decade of support from the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, African grandmothers have moved from basic survival to mobilizing for their human rights. Still working to resurrect their communities and overcome the ravages of AIDS, they are also lobbying for pensions, and advocating for better health care, and food and housing security. African grandmothers are the guardians of the future, and the unsung heroes of the AIDS pandemic . . . the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign amplifies their voices, and gives visibility and tangible support to the dignified and indomitable grandmothers of Africa.

Campaign Goals

Partnering with grassroots organizations, the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign supports African grandmothers, with three essential principles at its heart:

- To build solidarity among grandmothers and raise awareness to shine a spotlight on the vital role of grandmothers in overcoming the ravages of AIDS in Africa
- To listen to African grandmothers, respect their expertise, and amplify their voices in order to promote authentic and substantive responses to the AIDS pandemic and its associated challenges
- To raise funds for the work of community-based programs that meet the needs of African grandmothers and the children in their care.

As Mama Zodwa Ndlovu, co-founder and Executive Director of Siyaphambili in South Africa, said when she delivered the African

Grandmothers Call to Action presented at the African Grandmothers' Tribunal held in Toronto Canada in 2013: *“Our labour, with all of its struggles, challenges, knowledge and triumphs, has gone unheeded for too long. We will not let the AIDS pandemic defeat us, but we cannot prevail alone. We call on you to act with urgency to support our efforts to secure justice.”*

How to make a donation to support the indomitable African grandmothers and the orphaned grandchildren in their care:

Make out your check to: TIDES Foundation—Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign (check or money order) and send to the TIDES Foundation address below:

TIDES Foundation

The Presidio

P.O. Box 29903

San Francisco CA 94129

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign has become a dynamic global movement made up of groups of like-minded women who are active in their communities raising awareness about and funds for the African grandmothers through a variety of creative (and fun!) events—putting on concerts, holding Scrabble tournaments, selling jewelry and crafts, bike-a-thons, garage sales, etc! They are women like you—who know that when grandmothers (and grandothers) get galvanized, nothing can stop them!

Join Now!

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

www.grandmotherscampaignusa.org

For more information, or to get support materials for your Grandmothers Group, write to:

[**support@grandmotherscampaignusa.org**](mailto:support@grandmotherscampaignusa.org)