

# Kamloops CanGo Grannies



Have you heard of the Kamloops CanGo Grannies? I do hope so. We've been active in Kamloops for 20 years, part of a Canada wide Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign ([grandmotherscampaign.org](http://grandmotherscampaign.org)) dedicated to helping grandmothers in Africa who face challenges unheard of here.

We are a group of fun, energetic and determined grandmothers and grandothers who get together monthly to plan diverse, fun, fundraising activities to support grandmothers in Africa through the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) ([stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://stephenlewisfoundation.org)). The SLF provides funding and advice to groups initiated by the women in their own communities in response to the needs they see there.

We're delighted to have welcomed almost a dozen new members this year and will welcome you should you wish to join us. You might ask, "Why would I want to join?" The answer is that you will have fun, you'll be active, you'll develop lasting friendships, you'll help others and feel great about your contributions. There's no fee to join, and you can join any time. Call our Membership Coordinator, Nancy, at 250-579-9295 to find out more or to join us at a meeting. You do not need to be a grandmother to join. We have members who are grandothers!

What do we do? We meet monthly to plan our activities. We have two annual fundraisers plus



other events that vary from year to year. We hold plant sales every May, and make and sell beautiful Christmas planter decorations every November. We have craft sales, pub dinners, Fabric and Yarn Sales, a garage sale, Spring Flings - a luncheon, auction, silent auction, and sale of gently used jewellery. For next spring we've just started planning a High Tea which will be a lot of fun! We are always open to new ideas!

Why do we raise money for grandmothers in Africa? We don't hear much anymore about the AIDS epidemic, but it is still raging in sub-Saharan Africa, leaving grandmothers to raise their grandchildren after the parents have died of AIDS. There is no social safety net as we know it, so grandmothers are left alone to feed, clothe, and educate their grandchildren. Gender and age discrimination make the task even harder. Through the SLF, we fund grassroots, community groups started and run by grandmothers. In addition, the SLF works through the grassroots organizations to educate communities about AIDS. It is still rampant in Africa, infecting thousands of girls and young women every year. The SLF helps them, too, through the grassroots organizations in their communities. The need is great. Our reward is the knowledge that our fundraising has made real change possible and has improved the lives of women and children.