



In the fiscal year ending in 2023, its 20th, the Stephen Lewis Foundation raised \$9.3 million in support of 119 organizations working in 15 countries. In 2023, in VG4A's 17th year, we raised \$141,526. Together we have improved a lot of lives.

Have you had a chance to see the **SLF 20th Anniversary Commemorative Solidarity Quilt** yet? Sixteen years ago, the AIDS pandemic was ravaging sub-Saharan Africa. The very survival of communities was under threat: almost an entire generation of women and men were lost to AIDS, leaving millions of children without parents. In the

midst of this global health disaster, grandmothers courageously stepped forward to guide their grandchildren through their grief and toward a more hopeful future. That's where the SLF's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign found its roots. Canadian grandmothers rallied, determined to raise funds and support for African women who were already doing so much. In 2023, as the SLF celebrates its 20th anniversary, grandmothers were keen to launch a project that exemplified the solidarity between Canadian grandmothers and their counterparts on the African continent. They wanted to create something meaningful to represent the power and impact of women's leadership, activism and collaboration in communities around the world. And so the quilt was born. It is a truly collaborative creation, illustrating our truly collaborative partnerships with community-led organizations (CLOs) in Africa. A quilt committee of Canadian grandmothers met virtually to develop the quilt's design, with key input from African grandmothers. Pieces of the quilt were crafted and contributed by more than 300 grandmothers, including grandmothers representing 12 of our partners in Africa. Throughout the year, 25 groups of grandmothers came together to sew the quilt in a cross-Canada quilting bee with stops in 7 provinces! It was unveiled officially at the International Grandmothers Gathering at the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg in October and is now on a second cross-country tour. It will be here in Victoria on April 20th, the day of our African Dinner. Here is a great slide show about its conception and creation: <https://youtu.be/saknNv9Tr6Q>.

"LPK's vision for the quilt is giving life a new hope. We are leaves that were once treaded on by unfavourable weather, diseases and viruses. However, because we are anchored on a strong tree we are now flourishing, blossoming, and acquiring our former beauty." - *Living Positive Kenya (LPK) Ngong, Kenya*

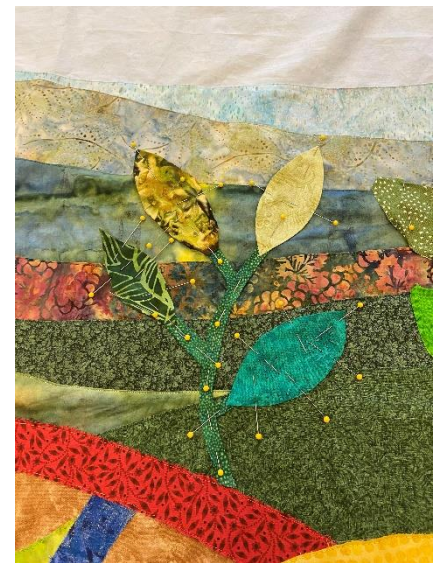
Information from: [Grass Roots Fall 2023](#) and the [SLF Quilt Promo April 2023](#)



Sandra C working on the quilt



The quilt on display at the IGG in Winnipeg



a Vancouver Island quilt piece