



oomama

Supporting African Grandmothers  
and Orphans Through the  
Stephen Lewis Foundation

## Fall Newsletter 2024



### In-Person Marketplaces

Nov. 16, 9:30 am – 2 pm

Christ First Church  
1700 Mazo Cr. Mississauga

Nov. 30, 9:00 am – 2 pm

St. John's United,  
262 Randall St., Oakville  
*and online:*

[oomama.org/marketplace](http://oomama.org/marketplace)

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Members of Oomama, Bronte Grans,  
Burlington Ubuntu Tri Group Planners

### OOmama Co-Chairs

The photo at the top right shows a swallowtail butterfly on a butterfly milkweed.

We've had a great year with several successful fundraising events, including two new endeavors. One was the sale of Big Box Cards that was highly profitable thanks to Barb Podgorski's *saleswomanship*. The other was a sale of jewelry at the Retired Teachers' luncheon. Again, we thank Barb for securing this opportunity for us. We also had a fabulous, online education session from Ingrid Janssen called *The Aging Gardener*.



**Our really big news** is that the next regional gathering for the Grandmother's Campaign in South-west Ontario, titled *Women Helping Women*, is being jointly planned by Oomama, Bronte Grans and Burlington Ubuntu Grandwomen. We are making plans for a great event, with interesting workshops and speakers from SLF, as well as a catered lunch.

**Save the date and location:** Saturday March 29, 2025 8:30-3:30 at Burlington Baptist Church, 2225 New St, Burlington ON L7R 1J2. -Pat McKee



Oomama, Bronte Grans & Burlington Ubuntu meet in Burlington.



## Stride to Turn the Tide 2024



### Stride Wrap-Up - Wendy Merson

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2024 Virtual Stride event as we marched across Canada.

We started at the beginning of April in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and ended just outside Terrace BC at the end of June. We hit all the Provincial Capitals and were treated to wonderful poetry from Anne Mackenzie-Thompson as we went along our route. We completed 11, 859 kms on our cross-Canada route.

You can see from our Map of Canada that it was a huge undertaking by our 22 striders. Congratulations to Susan Eadie, who was the strider with the most steps at a whopping 1370 kms. As well, Wendy Belcher raised an amazing \$2,414.75!

**The Bronte Grandmothers/Oomama Team raised over \$12,442!** In all, we walked, ran, swam, gardened, exercised, cleaned house, and completed many other activities to clock over 15 million steps! Congratulations to everyone!



### Bronte and Oomama Celebrating Stride

Photo at the top is some of our striders taking a walk together before having lunch with others. The top of the beautiful cake showed our map.



On July 12, we received the sad news that Oomama and GRAN member, Irene Clarke, had died.

Irene gave so very much to both organizations, and not just to the work for human rights, or for the good of SLF, but to many of us as individuals. Through her encouragement; mentoring with stories and laughter; personal notes, cards and messages; she was a caring friend to so many of us.

We are deeply grateful for her immense contributions to Oomama, GRAN, and the grandmothers in Africa. We miss her so much.



On September 3, 2024 Irene Clarke was posthumously awarded the King Charles III Coronation Award. The award is given to those who have made significant contributions to Canada, or attained outstanding achievement abroad, that bring credit to Canada. It is clear from the many accomplishments listed in [Irene's nomination letter](#) that she achieved both.



### *Hello Friends! 2024*



Pat B., Pat M., Sally Armstrong & Bev

From May 13-15, GRAN sponsored an event in downtown Toronto for members and friends from all over Canada. It provided an opportunity for friendship, learning, and reigniting our shared passion for social justice. We always come away inspired, strengthened, and energized.

Who better to inspire us than the keynote speaker at the opening banquet, award-winning author, journalist, and human rights activist Sally Armstrong. She is called *"the war correspondent for the world's women"* She gave an inspiring and entertaining speech by telling stories of her many experiences.

<https://grandmothersadvocacy.org>

## Seniors for Climate Day



Pat M, played guitar, Ron played trumpet, and Patty played the Djembe drum.

On Oct. 1, 2024, Oakville joined over 70 Canadian communities in celebrating the first national *Seniors for Climate Day*. The rally, hosted by GASP, (Grandmothers (and Others) Act to Save the Planet), was attended by Oomamas, GRANs, indigenous women from "Grandmother's Voice," among many others. Everyone sang *The Climate Song* in front of Oakville's Library and walked down to the Square to sing again.

Watch [group Singing The Climate Song in front of Oakville Library](#)

In September 2012, 380,000 Belgians came into the streets singing their demand for strong climate legislation. A video clip uniting all the voices was used to convince European leaders to sign on to UN agreements. Set to the melody of the anti-facist resistance anthem "Bella Ciao," the text calls us to wake up, build a better future and start right now!

**Sing for the Climate (Do It Now!) Music: Traditional, Lyrics: Nic Balthazar and Stef Kamil**

1. We need to wake up  
We need to wise up  
We need to open our eyes  
And do it now now now  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now

2. We're on a planet  
That has a problem  
We've got to solve it, get involved  
And do it now now now  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now

3. Make it greener  
Make it cleaner  
Make it last, make it fast  
and do it now now now  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now

4. No point in waiting  
Or hesitating  
We must get wise, take no more lies  
And do it now now now now  
We need to build a better future  
And we need to start right now

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- \*Art Caddies
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- \*Colourful Playing Card Holders
- \*Scrubbies
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