

PRESS RELEASE AUGUST 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCRABBLE® FOR AFRICA*

Imagine helping impoverished African grandmothers by playing a board game!

A group of North Shore grandmothers are holding an unusual fund-raiser **Sunday, October 5, 2 pm**, in the gym at Carson Graham Secondary School where you can do just that.

The North Shore Gogos are inviting the public to play Scrabble® in order to earn money for the thousands of African grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS. (*Gogo means grandmother in Zulu*).

All proceeds from the Scrabble® Event will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. More than 5,000 grandmothers across Canada are supporting the Campaign by raising awareness and funds in their communities.

People who wish to help need only get a pledge sheet, gather some sponsorship money, and play one game of Scrabble® on a Sunday afternoon.

The North Shore Gogos are pleased to have received support for this event from the Sunrise Rotary Club of West Vancouver, the North Vancouver School Board, Happy Planet and Drexoll Games

Three groups of North Shore grandmothers are combining forces to put on this event. All three operate under the umbrella of the Greater Van Gogos, more than 300 Lower Mainland women who are helping their African counterparts.

This fund raiser will offer more than a chance to play Scrabble®. The event will include refreshments, entertainment, craft sales and information tables featuring petitions to the federal government to increase aid to Africa.

Guest emcees will be Richard Walton, mayor of the District of North Vancouver, and Darrell Mussatto, mayor of the City of North Vancouver. As well, local spelling champions and Scrabble® experts will be in attendance.

African grandmothers face an unprecedented struggle to survive while taking on the burden of caring for their grandchildren. Beyond the obvious struggle to earn a living when they are both old and poor, these grandmothers must face the daily stigma of AIDS and even cope with the disease themselves. Small wonder that Stephen Lewis calls them "the unsung heroes of Africa."

Grandmother groups from across Canada will be raising funds for African grandmothers by hosting Scrabble® Events around October 5 this year.

For further information or to obtain a pledge sheet, you may contact the North Shore Gogos at nsgogos@gmail.com.

For more information about the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, go online to www.stephenlewisfoundation.org.

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