

September 12, 2025



**Dear Friend and Donor,**

We are asking for a donation of a product or service from your business to be sold in an online silent auction of items and services in the Kitchener Waterloo area. If you have an ‘experience’ that you could offer – that would be great.

Let us introduce ourselves:

- We are members of OMAS SISKONA, a group of very active grandmothers working in the KW area to raise awareness and funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF).

[omas-siskonakw.org](https://omas-siskonakw.org)

**We have raised over \$1 million since 2008.**

- The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) is a progressive organization rooted in the principles of social justice, international solidarity, and substantive equality that was created with the express purpose of supporting community-led organizations working on the frontlines of the HIV epidemic in countries across Africa. Many of these organizations are led by the African grandmothers who are raising children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic.
- OMAS SISKONA is part of the SLF Grandmothers Campaign which includes 10,000 grandmothers and *grandothers* in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These grandmothers’ groups organize fundraising events and activities and act in solidarity with the grandmothers and the SLF’s community-led partners in sub-Saharan Africa.
- This need is greater now, than ever before, as some of the major aid funding provided by the US has been revoked.
- Stephen Lewis is a Canadian politician, public speaker, broadcaster, and diplomat who was the Canadian ambassador to the United Nations in the 1980s and was UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa from June 2001 until the end of 2006.

[stephenlewisfoundation.org](https://stephenlewisfoundation.org)

[grandmotherscampaign.org](https://grandmotherscampaign.org)

What is planned for our auction is a **‘WIN - WIN - WIN’** scenario:

- You, the donor, get visibility for your product or service and potentially get one or more new clients / customers.
- The auction item purchaser can try a new service / product knowing that the purchase price is going to a good cause, to help support community work in Africa.
- OMAS SISKONA will contribute all profits from the auction to the SLF Grandmothers Campaign.

What is this auction:

- Online silent auction running in 2026:  
**from Saturday, February 21 @ 10am to Saturday, February 28 @010pm**
- Each item will be featured on the auction website with a photo and description and a link to your website

- At the end of the auction, we will provide the donated item to the purchaser and provide you with the information of the purchaser.
- Throughout the auction viewers will see information about your business

**What you need to do to make this donation:**

- Agree to provide a product or service before February 20, 2026.
- Provide a description and photo of your product / service or help us create one.
- Send information about our auction to your list of contacts so they can view and possibly purchase your item / service.
- Post a flyer for the auction in your business – let’s get everyone involved!

We know that with your help, we can make this a ‘win – win – win’ for people in the KW area, your business and the SLF Grandmothers Campaign. Please call or email one of the coordinators, listed below.

Thank you for considering this request.

Janet and Nancy and Debra  
OMAS SISKONA members coordinating the auction

**Janet Paikin**  
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**Fundraising for:**



**Stephen Lewis  
Foundation**



**Grandmothers to  
Grandmothers**