



July 30 2012

Suzy Coulter  
53675 O'Byrne Road  
Chilliwack BC V4Z 1B6

Dear Suzy,

We are deeply grateful to you for supporting the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and our partners in sub-Saharan Africa with your annual Turn to the Sun sunflower sales, now in its eighth year (!!). Your commitment and the money raised from these sales mean so much to the community-based organizations turning the tide of HIV and AIDS on the continent.

I recently visited a number of organizations in Tanzania and South Africa with whom the Foundation collaborates, and I was, once again, deeply moved by the tenacity and dignity with which communities are working together to overcome challenges. Hunger is rife, and devastating to those struggling to remain healthy and live positively with HIV and AIDS; orphaned children are breathtakingly eager to attend school – needing the daily meal, the continuity of classes and peers, the paper and pencils, shoes and uniforms provided by the organizations you support through the SLF. There is so much strife, and these grassroots organizations meet it head-on with dynamism and thoughtful interventions that are enhancing the quality of life for so many.

One of the newer initiatives of the SLF is a response to the remarkable and innovative use of the arts by our partners in Africa – to bring healing and hope to those struggling with the impact of loss, grief and hardship as a result of AIDS. We have established an Arts Fund to support the organic and effective use of art therapy woven into the fabric of every project. From the all-girl marimba band in Durban (girls orphaned by AIDS who told me they would be in gangs, on the street, or engaging in survival sex if not for the musical outlet, training and support), to the memory books drawn by dying mothers so their children can cling to memories and messages from Mama, to gumboot dancing and body maps, art is used as a critical mode of expression to resolve grief and cultivate hope.

Your support is even more critical when global resources for public health are drying up. Money is trickling from the top down internationally and support for AIDS-related programming is flat-lining. But at the grassroots, the work is flourishing – and your contribution supports people to live with dignity and optimism. They will not give up hope – and with your committed and generous support we will stand with them until they succeed in turning the tide of the AIDS pandemic in Africa.

Warmly,

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis  
Executive Director  
Stephen Lewis Foundation

*Suzy - just a handwritten note to say that we really love you and are so touched and appreciative of your extraordinary ongoing support - so meaningful - for so long!  
Profound, heartfelt thanks!  
Ilana*

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