

# UBUNTU NIAGARA FUNDRAISER FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

**SAMMY JACKSON  
WILL BE A SPECIAL  
GUEST SOLOIST**

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The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) has been supplying resources to organizations in Africa since 2003 to help improve the increase of HIV and AIDS issues. The organization has partnered with 325 organizations on more than 1,800 initiatives in 15 countries that have been hit the most by the disease.

Local group UBUNTU Niagara has been organizing an annual choir perfor-

mance, which raises funds that go toward SLF. Agnes Liles, one of the organizers, said the goal is to always have the event take place on or close to World AIDS Day, which is held on Dec. 1.

WomEnchant Chorus and Drummers has been the choir that performs each year, and this year the fundraiser will be held on Nov. 23 at Silver Spire United Church.

"It's a choir of women concerned about social justice, peace and integrity," said Liles.

This year, Sammy Jackson will be a special guest soloist - a Toronto-based vocalist who melds R&B, jazz and pop.

UBUNTU Niagara was

created in 2016, as it grew out of the former St. Andrew's United Church (Port Dalhousie) Healing and Meditation Group.

Liles once met Stephen Lewis at an event in Niagara and told him she didn't think she was doing enough. Her attitude is now that whatever money is raised is that much more if they didn't do anything.

"He said, when people do their best it creates trickle. As you build on that it becomes a flow and then it becomes a flood," said Liles about her conversation with Lewis. "We've developed a flow over the years, and it is really saying to us that if we continue we will do better things."

To raise money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the fundraising concert is \$20 tickets for adults and free for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased by calling 905-682-8328 and they will be available at the door.

The performance will be held on Nov. 23 at 7 p.m., at Silver Spire United Church on 366 Paul St. in St. Catharines.

The Standard The Review The Tribune Nov. 22, 2019

## Church concert part of World AIDS Day benefit

THE ST. CATHARINES STANDARD

It will be a taste of Africa, when WomEnchant Chorus and Drummers perform Saturday at a church in St. Catharines.

The program is called Despair to Hope: The Power of Human Connection, and the concert is part of a World AIDS Day benefit.

The show, at Silver Spire United Church, 366 St. Paul St., will also feature special guest soloist Sammy Jackson.

It's a fundraiser in support of the Ste-

phen Lewis Foundation, which works to eradicate HIV and AIDS in Africa.

The organizer is Ubuntu Niagara, which was created in 2016 and grew out of a healing and meditation group at the former St. Andrew's United Church in Port Dalhousie.

The concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and children under 12 get in free. They will be available at the door.

For more information phone 905-682-8328.



JULIE JOCSAK TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Silver Spire Church in St. Catharines will host a concert Saturday in observance of World AIDS Day.