

GRANDMOTHER TO GRANDMOTHER  
New York to Tanzania  
Discussion Guide

1. What was your overall response to this film? What struck you most?
2. What was your impression of the African Grandmothers? Which one(s) impressed you the most? Why?
3. What was your impression of the Grandmothers from the Bronx? Which one(s) impressed you the most? Why?
4. Do you personally know a grandmother who is helping raise one or more of her grandchildren? How is her experience similar to the grandmothers portrayed in the film?
5. What are some of the unique challenges that grandparents face in raising their children's children?
6. Did this film challenge any stereotypes or prejudices? Explain.
7. Why are these two programs (Bronx and Tanzania) important? What is their value?
8. What are the common traits that are shared by both programs? What's different?
9. What could you do in your community to address the vast and growing problem of grandparents raising grandchildren? Does something come to mind that would be do-able? If so, what's a practical first step to get started?

**For people involved with Senior Services and/or Housing**

1. What are the possibilities of creating similar programs in your communities?
2. What do you imagine the steps in the building process would be?
3. What are the key obstacles you believe would need to be overcome?
4. What local resources – public or private -- might be able to help in the effort?
5. Which individuals can you call upon – grandparents, community organizers, political leaders, others – to help provide input, advice and ongoing counsel to shape a program?

**For people involved in Global Health, Public Health, HIV/AIDS, Medical Schools.**

1. How might you address the plight of African grandmothers and their orphaned grandchildren?

2. How can a program like that portrayed in the film assist in combating community health, poverty and educational challenges? Can it serve as an extension to existing outreach programs?
3. Can a program of the kind depicted in Tanzania easily “translate” into other African nations?
4. What are the possibilities of creating similar programs in the geographies of interest to you?
5. What do you imagine the steps in the building process would be?
6. What are the key obstacles you believe would need to be overcome?
7. What resources – public or private, international, national or local -- might be able to help in the effort?
8. Which individuals can you call upon – grandparents, health organizations, religious organizations, community organizers, political leaders, others – to help provide input, advice and ongoing counsel to shape a program?

### **For Educators and Students**

1. Would you be interested in creating in an intern program like the one you saw in Tanzania? If yes, how would you go about doing it?
2. What are the characteristics that a successful intern should possess?
3. What can an intern gain from participating in a program of this kind?
4. Identify some specific areas in which you believe an intern can make a contribution to assisting grandparents and their grandchildren in communities similar to those portrayed in the film?

### **TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF BOTH PROGRAMS AND TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THEM GO THEIR WEBSITES:**

BIBI JANN CHILDREN'S CARE TRUST: <http://www.bibijann.org/>

GRANDPARENT FAMILY APARTMENTS: <http://www.pssusa.org/>

WESTSIDE FEDERATION

FOR SENIOR AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: [http:// www.wsfssh.org/](http://www.wsfssh.org/)