

## President's Report

It is seven years since the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation was established as a charitable society so that all members of the B.C.R.T.A. could work together to help others through education. This year a new brochure has been produced to explain the work the society is doing and to invite members to actively support that work. You will be receiving a copy in the mail with your *Postscript*. I hope you will take time to read it carefully.

The brochure lists eleven developing countries and eight B.C. communities where the foundation has funded educational projects. It also lists the six B.C. Universities where R.R. Smith Bursaries in Education are available to students training to be teachers.

This year the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation has made ten grants. These projects represent ten good reasons for supporting the society.

1. Chilliwack Opportunity Society - \$500 to buy learning materials for an adult literacy project
2. CHES Kenya - \$ 1480 to buy a dictionary and atlas for every CHES student enrolled in secondary school, form 1
3. CHES Tanzania - \$600 to buy equipment for a trade school so that girls can attend
4. KEEF - \$500 a full scholarship for one boy to attend secondary school for one year in Kenya
5. HUGGS Canada - \$1000 a scholarship for one girl to attend Junior College in India for one year
6. SPARKS Academy - \$2000 for equipment for an early childhood development centre in Afghanistan
7. Project Kenya Sister Schools \$1000 to provide fund raising materials for schools in B.C. raising money for schools in Kenya
8. ACCES - \$900 - two scholarships so that one boy and one girl can attend secondary school in Kenya for one year
9. Families For Children - \$1000 for school supplies for a school for lost, abandoned, or abused children in Bangladesh
10. AFRETECH - \$1000 to ship donated computers and learning materials to Africa

In addition to these projects, the Vancouver RTA raised \$3,140 through a branch special project to buy equipment for a school in Costa Rica.

Consider how these projects make things better for people. If you believe, as we do, that education can make a difference, the brochure suggest five ways you can actively support the work of the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation.

I would like to close my report by suggesting a sixth way. Johnson Insurance donated almost \$900 to the work of the society last year. They will donate \$10 for every BCRTA member who asks them to provide a quote for house insurance. This donation will be made whether the member buys insurance from them or not. This could be a win for everyone. You might get a better quote on your insurance and the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation could certainly put the donation to good use.

Thank you for your continuing support. Through education, you are making a difference.

*Peter Minshull, President*