

R.R. SMITH *newsletter*

FALL 2018 – WINTER 2019



R.R. SMITH 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Each year, the R.R. Smith AGM precedes the BCRTA AGM. Eight Directors were elected: Bev Anderson, Steve Bailey, Dave Carter, Judy de Vries, Andy Hatrick, Sarah Joyce, Karen Kilbride and Sheila Pither.

The B.C. Retired Teachers' Association Board appoints two other directors and they are Sterling Campbell and Caroline Malm.

The 2018-19 draft budget was approved and the Sept.10th financial statements were adopted.

During the 3 days of the BCRTA AGM, R.R. Smith accepted donations, and all delegates had an opportunity to benefit from generous door prizes donated by Bev Anderson, Karen Foo, Johnsons, B.C.R.T.A., Enjoy Tours, the Hilton, and Holiday Inn.

The R.R. Smith Fund will be funding \$35 000.00 in grant applications in March of 2019. The application forms for grant funding are on-line at

www.rrsmith.ca and must be submitted by March 1, 2019. All grants are evaluated according to the R.R. Smith criteria and applicants will be notified whether funding will be granted. If you know of any organization or individual planning to apply please remind them of the March 1 deadline as applications received after this date will not be eligible for the 2019 grants.



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RR SMITH MEMORIAL FUND THANK YOU

I am writing on behalf of the Betty Huff Theatre Company to thank you for your generous grant donation this past year. We asked specifically for help in putting on Ronald Dahl's Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. You can check it out at www.bettyhufftheatre.ca just click on Willy Wonka and click on the video link or check out the pictures from the show.

We had over 1200 students from the district come and see the show during the week of performances and had over 400 people from the community and our own school come and see the show in the evening. It was a great community event.



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RR SMITH MEMORIAL FUND THANK YOU

Thank you retired teachers for helping us work with our kids and inspire them to be greater than they ever thought possible! We hope you will continue to partner with us for years to come. Making kids dreams come true one theatre production at a time. This year we are preparing “The Little Princess” and “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast”.

One day I hope you will come and see a show, or pop by for a visit and have one of our actors give you the grand tour. You are always welcome!

Steve Swaddling - Director Betty Huff Theatre Company



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CHILDREN'S CARE INTERNATIONAL (CCI)

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT PRESENTED TO R. R. SMITH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

This document provides some recent information regarding the young girls that the R.R. Smith Memorial Foundation has supported in recent years. Thanks to your contribution, Thottamma, Yerramma and Aruna have followed a Nursing programme, and their acquired knowledge will be of great use to them on a daily basis in their professional and family environments. Once again, we thank you for your support.



Thottamma Mylipilli

She has completed her Nursing studies, and works at a health centre. Thanks to this job, is truly flourishing. Her mother participates in CCI's microcredit pro-gramme,

and can proudly boast that her fruit and vegetable business is growing. It has been possible for CCI to change this family's life because on one hand, Thottamma's mother has been able to increase her income, and on the other, her daughter is a wonderful example of professional success.



Yerramma Chodipili

She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in April 2017, and works as a nurse in a hospital for mothers and children. She is very much appreciated by her

supervisors, and receives regular compliments on her performance. Yerramma currently earns a salary of INR 9000, which is expected to increase to INR 15,000 by next year. Her immediate goal is to apply to work in a government hospital as soon as she has a little more experience under her belt. These hospitals hire more experienced nurses, and their salaries can reach INR 50,000 or even 60,000, which is very good. In the meantime, she is very happy with her present job, in which she radiates success. She walks to work every day, and rents a house in Vizianagaram.



Aruna Kambala

As for Aruna Kambala, she started her Nursing programme but chose not to finish it. Last year, she decided to get married. Despite the fact that she has not completed her



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professional training, her level of knowledge will enable her to better face the challenges of life, and use her skills on a daily basis.

Although we are still in contact with Thottamma, Yerramma and Aruna, they are no longer among the young persons that CCI supports through its Sponsorship Programme. The latest donation from the R.R. Smith Memorial Foundation has therefore funded the tuition fees and basic needs of three other young people: Jayalaxmi, Anand and Salomi. Let us introduce you to them



Jayalaxmi Kolimani in January 2018

She was born in the village of Cheruvukommu in the State of Andhra Pradesh, where she lives with her family. She has two younger sisters who study in government schools in different villages. Their mother works as a daily hire, and her father as a shepherd. Their family's financial situation is not so dire, and recently they were able to secure government assistance for the construction of their home. She is herself in very good health and has never suffered from any illness except the occasional flu and cough. She walks to her college every day.

Jayalaxmi has been involved with CCI's programme since 2008, and is an above-average student. She is self-disciplined and works very hard. Presently, she is in her second year of college, working towards a Bachelor of Science at the Lendi Degree College in Bhogapuram. Her immediate goal is to complete her science degree next year, and continue studying for an extra year to earn a teacher's diploma.



Anand in January 2018

Anand was born in the village of Perapuram, in Andhra Pradesh. He has two brothers, and a few years ago, his mother passed away. His father is an alcoholic and does not care for his children. The family's financial situation is critical, as they have no assets except a house in their village which is subsidized by the State. Before joining CCI's programme in 2009, Anand was a buffalo and cow herder for his village. He has never suffered major health problems, except for the occasional cough, cold and fever. He is a tall and very physically active boy, intelligent, disciplined and hard-working.



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Anand lives on-campus, and is in the 3rd year of polytechnic training; his college is in Savaravilli Village, in Bhogapuram, District of Vizianagaram. He would like to work for the Indian Armed Forces once he graduates.



Salomi in January 2018

Salomi was born in the village of Chinakondarajupalam. She has two brothers and her family is very poor. Her parents separated in 2013. Her two brothers

live with their father and she lives with her mother, who works for a fishery. As a child, Salomi was a stone cutter; then she joined CCI's Sponsorship Programme in 2009.

Salomi has completed her college studies at BVK College in Visakhapatnam, and is presently in a health-care training programme at the Pratham Vocational Centre. This three-month intensive training will permit her to work in the health-care field. She is an average student and works hard. She lives in Visakhapatnam, and travels to her training centre by bus.

Thank you for your precious support!



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OPERA CAMP

SUBMITTED BY GWYNETH WESTWICK, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, VOG

Since 2014, Vancouver Opera, as one part of its educational outreach programming, has been offering opera camps, initially in a two-week format to mainly secondary students during the summer months, and later also in a one-week format to elementary students in the summer and to at-risk youth during spring break. In these camps, the students are enabled to create and then perform an original chamber-length opera before an invited audience. The students select a story, write the libretto (much of it often in rhyming couplets!), compose the music, design the set, devise the costumes, learn their parts, and rehearse the performance, and the results are truly astonishing—it is wonderful to see how much talent the children and youth possess, and how they thrive in discovering and developing it!

Beginning with the very first opera camp, as part of

its work to support Vancouver Opera, the Vancouver Opera Guild has been providing tuition bursaries to enable disadvantaged youth to participate. In this endeavor we have, from the beginning, received assistance from the R. R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation, which has been greatly appreciated. Over the years, our joint contributions have enabled 19 youths who would not otherwise have been able to do so to attend the two-week senior intensive camp, and a further four will be sponsored next summer. The Vancouver Opera Guild is very grateful to the members of the Foundation Board for their endorsement of this project, and for all who have contributed financially to make it possible. Thank you very, very much!

The cast pictures below show the happy campers of the junior and senior 2017 summer opera camps.



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ENJOY TOURS OFFER TO MEMBERS

Each time a BCTRA/ R.R. Smith member attends a day tour, multi day tour, or vacation the members name will be included in a year end draw for a \$100 Enjoy Tour and Travel gift certificate. Mention BCTRA or RR Smith when booking to donate 10% for Day Tours, 5% for Multi Day Tours and \$100 for Vacations in support of the RR Smith Memorial Fund.

Branches are encouraged to plan exclusive day trips for their members. These trips are fun outings and at the same time raise funds for R.R. Smith. A win/win situation.

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DONATING MADE EASY

Donations can now be made on line with a tax receipt issued at the same time.

To make a donation go to www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca, click on “Funds” at the top of the page, type R.R. Smith in the “search” area, click on “R.R. Smith Community Fund”, click on “Give to this Fund”, and fill in the details required. A tax receipt will be issued for donations over \$20. If you wish to designate the funds fill in the organization in the “Leave a comment” section.

ADVERTISING IN THE R.R. SMITH NEWSLETTER

Members and select businesses can advertise in the R.R. Smith Newsletter.

Members with businesses and businesses that provide services to our members are able to make a tax receipted donation for an advertising space in the Newsletter.

- Business card size for a donation of between \$65 and \$104;
- 1/4 page (Horizontal or Vertical) for a donation of between \$105 and \$174;
- 1/2 page (Horizontal or Vertical) for a donation of between \$175 and \$334;
- Full page for a donation of \$335 or more.

The Newsletter is sent to around 7500 members.



R.R. Smith

MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION

Fill in this form so we have the information we need to provide you with a tax receipt.

Name

Street Address

City

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Amount of Donation

To Endowment

To Grants

Mail the completed form and your cheque to:

R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation
100 – 550 W. 6th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2t

For donations made by way of bequests, life insurance, real estate or In Memoriam, please contact the President, R.R. Smith Memorial Foundation by mail at the above address or by phone at: 604.871.2260 *or toll free* 1.877.683.2243

The R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation is:

- A Registered Charity under the Canadian Income Tax Act #86160 2126 RR0001
- Incorporated under the BC Society Act

The purposes of the society are to advance public education in British Columbia and in developing countries.

If you believe, as we do, that Education can make a difference, please support the work of the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation by making:

- A regular donation which will be used in the year that it is given to support the grants the Foundation makes that year
- A donation to the Foundation's Endowment Fund so the interest earned can be used for future grants
- An "In Memoriam" donation for a family member or friend
- The R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation your Life Insurance beneficiary thereby making your premiums tax deductible
- A real estate donation

What we do:

- Providing scholarships and bursaries to
 - Doctoral students in any area which advances public education, and
 - Deserving students, to enable them to attend post-secondary educational institutions,
- Making and administering grants to Canadian registered charitable organizations, the purposes of which are similar to those of the society,
- Acquiring school materials, books, equipment, and supplies of all kinds, and donating them to schools,
- Providing funding to support innovative projects which advance public education,
- Working cooperatively with governments in Canada and other countries, and other charitable organizations.

The Foundation makes grants to projects that meet these criteria and are registered Canadian charities. Application forms are available at www.rrsmith.ca