



November, 2010

Dear Donors:

The Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society (COBSS) is a non-profit organization consisting of dedicated community volunteers and counselors from public and private schools within the boundaries of School District #23. As a group, we are committed to providing financial assistance to Grade 12 graduates of the Central Okanagan in order to support their pursuit of post-secondary educational goals. This local organization is quite unique, in that a student can be considered for over 470 local bursaries, scholarships and awards by submitting one single application during their Grade 12 year. Bursaries are allocated based on financial need, scholarships are distributed based on outstanding achievement in any area stipulated by the donor, and awards are given based on any criteria which the donor specifies.

In 2010, COBSS allocated 445 awards, totaling just over \$312,000 and, in the past ten years, \$3,156,606 has been distributed to deserving students in our community. Only students attending an accredited post-secondary educational institution are eligible to receive a bursary, scholarship, or award. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of awards for distribution and the number of applicants always well exceeds the number of awards which we have available to allocate. As such, many deserving students are unsuccessful in their application for support. As an organization, we consistently strive to increase our donor base so that we can contribute financially to the education of as many students as possible. In addition, as a volunteer organization, we are also seeking donors who may wish to fund some of the administrative costs of COBSS (office expenses, insurance, postage etc).

The cost of post-secondary education in North America has risen consistently over the last decades, and tuition, student fees, and books may total in excess of \$7000 per year for an undergraduate University degree. This amount does not include residence fees or additional living expenses.

The generosity of donors who recognize the achievements of the outstanding young people in our community, and who believe in the value of their continued education, is greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, we encourage you to call 250-861-4980, e-mail us at cobbs@shawbiz.ca, or visit our website at www.cobss.ca to download a donor contract or gain further information.

Thank-you for your interest in our organization.

Best regards,

*Janet Kluftinger
COBSS President*