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Richard K. Taylor  
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All Region high schools and Laurier  
join in development project for 3rd world

Students in every high school in the Region of Waterloo, and students at Wilfrid Laurier University, have joined in a pilot project that will see them become involved in 16 specific development projects in Third World countries, as part of a national project.

Waterloo and St. Catharines were selected in the project undertaken by World University Service of Canada (WUSC) in celebration of International Youth Year. Labelled Youth for Development, it is funded by the Ministry of State (Youth).

WUSC is a non-profit, non-governmental organization involving the Canadian community in social and academic development at home and abroad. It is affiliated with WUS International with headquarters in Geneva.

Peter Braid, a graduate of Bluevale Collegiate, is local project co-ordinator. He said students at Laurier and each high school have adopted a sister school or institution and have become involved with funding of a specific project in a developing country.

As well, the twinned institutions will be encouraged to exchange letters and photos, so as to get to know each other. "We hope to make this as personal as possible," he said.

Laurier students, for example, are twinned with a secondary school in Botswana and will support a feeding centre at the school which is unable to provide adequate protein for its students.

The student government at Laurier has also donated space in the student union building as an office for the project.

Project countries are Lesotho, Malawi, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

Funding, ranging to \$3,000, will accomplish such projects as the construction of a playground at a day-care centre for children, the building of school desks for students, and the purchase of a table saw for a high school carpentry program. Funding is to be completed by Dec. 31.

A poster for the campaign has been designed by Marg Hagey, a first-year arts major at the University of Waterloo. Printing was donated by Johanns Graphics Ltd., of Waterloo.

Peter Braid said a feature of the WUSC project is that every cent raised will go toward the projects. All expenses and costs will be paid by the grant from the ministry of state (youth).

A Canadian WUSC volunteer is stationed at each project and he or she is committed to report back to the Canadian participants on how each project is proceeding.

Braid said the Waterloo Region schools will raise money through a variety of projects, some suggestions include the operation of a film festival, a draw for a Third world craft, and an international food fair.

Grand River Collegiate will raise the price of the Christmas dinner as one step in raising funds, and Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate students are planning a dance-a-thon. In most schools, the projects are the responsibility of the student council and a teacher representative.

Braid was selected as project co-ordinator since he has had experience in the developing world, having visited India for three months after completing high school.

He is delaying entering university until January so that he can give full-time attention to the program.