



Fall-tastic! Tredyffrin & Easttown Care's Fall Fest assists families in need in the Tredyffrin and Easttown communities.

By Peter Urscheler



On Saturday, Nov. 11, the St. David's Country Club in Wayne will play host to Tredyffrin & Easttown Care's 10th annual Fall Fest, featuring dinner, dancing and a silent auction.

Fall Fest is T&E Care's premier event, raising about 30 percent of the organization's annual budget. Approximately 98 percent of the monies raised go toward assisting families in need in the Tredyffrin and Easttown communities.

T&E Care was established in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The group's first mission was to provide aid to families affected by the hurricane who had relocated to the Tredyffrin area.

Throughout the fall of 2005, the volunteers of T&E Care worked together and pooled their resources to help the displaced families do everything from find their way around the area to furnishing their new, permanent residences.

The organization, founded by Kirk and Sandy Gorman, collected donations of all kinds for the New Orleans families, from computers to clothing, home furnishings and other household items. The group expanded its mission over the holidays that same year, helping families in need of assistance after difficult life events like divorce, illness, and even a fire. They provided gift cards and basic necessities, but they also offered the families medical and educational resources, and helped to connect the ones who needed it to employment.

By the time the families affected by Katrina had moved on, the group had been inundated with donations from all over the Tredyffrin and Easttown communities. Realizing they were a powerful force for good in their neighborhoods, T&E Care decided to keep moving forward and helping those in need.

In May of 2006, T&E Care was given permanent nonprofit status, and its founding board of directors decided the organization would remain all-volunteer so the monies earned by the group would go directly toward helping families in need in their community. The group says it has helped hundreds of families since its inception, providing emergency assistance with rent, utility bills, clothes, toys, or computers. Though not a means of long-term support, the organization will work to get families through a difficult time.

The families helped by T&E Care are mainly there by referral from places such as local faith-based organizations, counselors, or schools, and, on occasion, they approach the group directly. No matter where they come from, each request is vetted so the group knows it's legitimate.

Some of the organization's signature programs include assistance with summer camps, transportation, school meals, and college and textbooks. Annually, it hosts a holiday drive, a kids' clothing event, a school supply drive, and Computers for Kids.

With such a significant portion of the organization's budget being raised during the November event, the group goes all-out to make it special. "T&E Care Supports Everyday

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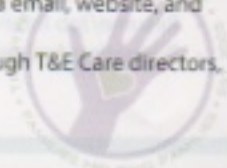


Mission of Tredyffrin & Easttown Care

The mission of T&E Care is to maintain a network of people providing financial and other material assistance to persons in need in and around the Tredyffrin and Easttown township area.

T&E Care will provide assistance to local persons in need by:

- Identifying persons in need through contacts in the community
- Communicating these needs, respecting always the privacy of the intended recipients, to the T&E Care network via email, website, and other media
- Facilitating the delivery of such assistance through T&E Care directors, officers, and other volunteers.





Heroes" is the theme of this year's event. Fall Fest, which is being held on Veterans Day, will recognize and celebrate the lives of their communities.

Melissa Action and M.J. Chiles are this year's event chairs. They and the entire T&E Care committee are looking for the community to nominate their heroes for the celebration.

"This is just a small way to honor the heroes in our lives. If a person has made a difference in your life, then he/she is worth recognizing. Whether it's the bus driver who waits that extra minute for your child, a friend who delivers meals to the ill, or a veteran who has served our country—this is our opportunity to say, 'What you do matters.' It only takes one person to be the difference in a life and be a hero."

While the organization would love for all heroes to be in attendance at this year's Fall Fest, it's not mandatory—heroes will be recognized in event literature.

Anyone interested in nominating his or her Everyday Hero, please email hero@tecare.org no later than Oct. 15. Include the names of the nominee and nominator; if you are submitting a group, include the generic or specific name of the group, the nominator's relationship to the nominee and a brief one or two-sentence statement on why this person/group is your hero. Photos are welcome, but not mandatory.

Sponsorship opportunities for this event are still available and silent auction items are welcome. Suggestions for silent auction items include vacation homes, gift certificates for dining establishments, salons, local merchants or spas; sports items such as tickets or memorabilia, gift baskets, wine baskets, and service-based offers such as interior design or in-home chef services. Your imagination is the only limit.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please email the committee at fallfest@tecare.org.

For more information on the T&E Care organization and the Fall Fest, please visit the website at www.tecare.org. ■

Tredyffrin & Easttown Care Programs

T&E Care offers two basic categories of programs – those that handle immediate problems, and those that attempt to help a family have a more successful future.

Programs That Address Today's Needs Today

- Home & Hearth Program that provides housing assistance, utilities, and general food and clothing needs. Additionally the Home & Hearth Program encompasses the Kids Clothing Event, an annual spring clothing drive; School Lunch Program, offering ongoing support for lunch assistance to area students; and a "Stuff Program," which assists families in need of basic housewares and furniture.
- Transportation Assistance Program
- Holiday Gifts and Special Meals Program

Programs That Invest Today for a Better Tomorrow

- College Assistance Program for tuition and book assistance, mentoring and general guidance
- Summer Camp Program, which helps with tuition for summer camps
- School Supplies Program
- Computers for Students, which provides refurbished computers to local families and students, while giving new laptops to qualifying college students
- Resume/Job Interview Preparation
- Budgeting Assistance