



Annual Summary 2016

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.

Once again the generosity of our community has made it possible for T&E Care to remain focused on giving assistance to local families who were struggling with difficult or emergency situations. In 2016, over 700 community members, businesses or groups made donations of one type or another to T&E Care, with hundreds of people volunteering for our various drives and programs. We are proud that our entire Board of Directors and Auxiliary Board members make donations of one sort or another to our various efforts. This community support in the form of financial donations, time, and talents made a difference in the lives of almost 300 local families in need, with about 60 of them new to us in 2016, our 11th year serving the T/E area.

Almost 290 general support payments were made in 2016, totaling over \$215,800 in monetary assistance to local families. The biggest areas of financial support included housing, utilities, education and transportation. Additional assistance was provided for medical bills, childcare costs, educational (non-college) bills, and other sorts of emergency support. T&E Care also provided over \$2300 in general gift card support throughout the year (not including the cards from the school supply and holiday drives detailed below). Additional help was provided for budgeting advice, college mentoring, resume review and job placement. Some families received furniture, household items, clothes, baby items, food and even cars.

Program assistance to families

In order to respond to the individual needs of families in 2016, T&E Care offered a number of programs for families in the community. Some of these programs follow a school-year calendar so they span more than one calendar year.

- **Home and Hearth**: Over \$72,000 in cash assistance was offered for housing and utility bills in 2016, the majority of which was for housing and utilities. T&E Care paid over \$57,000 of housing assistance. Most of these 48 payments were for rent or mortgage payments, although there were some storage unit bills, insurance bills, and property tax bills included. Payments of almost \$12,200 covered 39 utility bills such as oil, PECO, water, Verizon, Comcast, etc. for 23 different families. In addition, food, clothing, and household goods were distributed to families, along with over \$2300 in donated gift cards for similar needs.
- **Transportation Assistance Program**: Over \$15,000 in bills was paid for 16 different individuals for car repairs, inspections, car tag transfers, insurance. In addition, two cars were donated in 2016, both of which were transferred to local families. Access to transportation is one of the most significant ways that we are able to positively impact families.
- **College Assistance Program**: In 2016 T&E Care made payments to support over 38 students in the CAP program, totaling over \$81,000. Payments covered college related expenses including SAT fees and college admission costs, tuition room & board (almost \$70,000), and textbooks (over \$10,000). Additional students are being supported with volunteer mentors who help direct the student through the college admission process and offer guidance throughout their college experiences. High school juniors and seniors who meet eligibility criteria can apply for CAP assistance. Students can continue to receive this support throughout their college years, as long as their grades, jobs, and activities reflect their efforts to be successful. We are proud that, as of June 2016, there are eight graduates who have worked with T&E Care throughout their college years, and all but one have jobs in their majors!

◆ ————— FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES ————— ◆

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- Computers For Kids Program: We provided over 40 computers or related equipment to students and families in 2016. Twelve college-bound students received new laptops, and almost 30 refurbished computers and/or printers were distributed within the community. We are licensed Microsoft refurbishers and all our refurbished computers are donated. In addition, volunteers do all the refurbishing. There were some computer expenses such as repair parts for a few of the donated computers (such as a battery or a power cord), and we had to renew our licenses for the computers – an expense that occurs every 2-3 years. The majority of this budget is for the new CAP laptops and computer-related supplies for our college-bound students, most of which were covered by a \$7,000 grant from FLITE, the local education foundation. (The grant overlapped the 2015/2016 school year.)
- Meal Assistance Program: As many as 26 students were supported during the 2016 school year as a result of this program (the number can vary monthly). For the first half of 2016 our numbers ran about the same. Students are eligible if their parents make just over the federal guidelines for free/reduced lunch assistance. Each student received \$30-\$50 per month in his/her lunch account (depending on the grade level), totaling almost \$9400 in assistance for calendar year 2016.
- Summer Camp Program: Over 90 youngsters were provided with a week or two of summer camp in 2016, and volunteers provided transportation for three of them. T&E Care spent almost \$16,500 covering camp tuition fees, and 6 local camps also donated scholarships (14 in total, valuing over \$3400) to help us reach even more children.
- School Supply Drive: Assistance was given in August 2016 to over 240 students (from about 142 families). Book bags and supplies (with a value of over \$12,000) and almost \$10,000 in gift cards (for clothing or food or other supplies) were distributed to these students. Community members or local businesses/organizations donated all of the items requested for this drive directly or through cash donations. No T&E Care general funds were needed for this drive. We did receive a \$2406 grant from FLITE to help with the purchase of book bags and flash drives. We are proud of the partnerships we have developed with many local businesses and organizations who contributed with supplies, gift cards, cash donations, or volunteer time for this and other events.
- Holiday Drive: Over 115 families (over 345 individuals) were given almost \$74,000 in assistance, including almost \$40,000 worth of gifts, food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries, as well as over \$34,000 in gift cards. Community members and local businesses donated all of the items requested for this drive, and a large number of volunteers helped with the sorting and delivering of the gifts. No T&E Care general funds were needed for this drive.
- Special dinners: 10 local families received bags and bags of food for their Thanksgiving holiday dinners, and another 10 families were offered similar assistance for Christmas meals. All the food, including meat and fresh produce, was donated by local community members, as well as students and parents from the local Amana Foundation. No T&E Care general funds were required for this program. A partnership with St. Luke Lutheran Church helped make the Thanksgiving drive possible, where volunteers gathered to actually cook some of the items before delivering them to the families.
- Kids Clothing Grab Bag: After collecting donations of children's clothing from all over the community, we sorted the items and displayed them for people to come and "fill a bag" at our fifth annual "Grab Bag". Donations of \$10/bag were requested. All families supported by T&E Care (and many others needing help) were offered bags of clothes at no charge. From those who made donations, almost \$5,800 was raised through this event. This was also a wonderful opportunity for anyone in the community (individuals, scout groups, school clubs, and families we support) to volunteer to help out. Hundreds of volunteers participated in one way or another.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses for 2016 totaled just over \$8,000, or a little under 3% of our total expenses. These costs include required operating expenses such as the financial audit, Director's and Officer's insurance, our post-office box fees, state filing fees, Pay Pal fees, and a local business association membership. T&E Care continues to have no paid employees and no office expenses. Most of the supplies, including most printing and postage costs, are donated. There is no physical office space, so there are no rent or utility fees associated with the organization. Donations truly do go directly to the families T&E Care supports.

Fundraising Efforts

All the assistance given requires financial resources. T&E Care volunteers worked hard to raise the money needed to fund the various programs and provide assistance in 2016. Our biggest source of financial support, over \$112,000 in 2016, came from members of our community who make cash donations throughout the year.

The 9th annual Fall Fest was again our main fundraiser, raising over \$86,000, net of expenses, in 2016. Our 36 different sponsors were a large reason for this success, in addition to a great silent auction and raffle, and a sold-out crowd in attendance. As in the past, a number of community members or groups also held fundraisers on behalf of T&E Care, bringing in over \$20,000. For example, in 2016 there was a neighborhood 5K and a student race at one of our elementary schools, both with proceeds going to T&E Care. Other examples include a Wellness Festival by a local business association, a shopping day at Jennifer on the Avenue, A Nickels for Nonprofit event (Whole Foods), a band performance and dinner at 30 Main, an exercise event at Mojo Fitness, and a number of sports teams and school groups who ran special events for T&E Care (bringing in both cash donations and donations of items). Funding is also received from United Way, Amazon Smile, and a number of companies who match employee contributions.

We had successful grant applications to and offers from a number of local foundations including CCRES, The Nelson Foundation, the Connelly Foundation, Re/MAX Charitable Foundation, The Claniel Foundation, Fox & Roach Charities, and the Foundation for Learning in T/E, totaling over \$47,000 in support. The support of many local churches, businesses, school groups, and PTOs was also important in funding the 2016 programs.

Additionally, gift card donations totaled over \$49,000 in 2016, coming from many individuals, plus local businesses, groups, and foundations such as Wegmans, Johnson Matthey Inc, and the Blue Sky Band concert. As discussed earlier, these gift cards were used in conjunction with our school supply drive, our holiday drive, and for general assistance throughout the year.

Other types of donations

Besides donations already mentioned, such as summer camp scholarships, many area businesses and individuals donated prizes for the Fall Fest auction, or donated desserts for the Fall Fest event. Additionally, local Girl Scout troops and sports teams donated time and goods for various efforts. One Girl Scout troop baked over 400 dozen cookies for local families at the holidays, and various local high school teams sorted dozens of very large bags of clothes for our clothing drive. Many high school students helped with the sorting of items at our school supply drive and our clothing drive. Three retired IT gentlemen continue to do most of the computer refurbishing and new computer set-ups at no charge. A number of businesses donated food on our special sorting days for our hundreds of Grab Bag and School Supply Drive volunteers. Finally, many community members donated computers, furniture, clothing, baby supplies, and other items to help families when the need was announced.

In 2017 and beyond

T&E Care is all about neighbors helping neighbors. While we remain focused in our mission of helping local families who struggle, we continue to engage the community in various ways to impact their neighbors. We regularly hear how much folks like the fact that we are all-volunteer and all local! In 2017 we hope to refine our programs to make them run even more effectively and efficiently. We are also going to undergo a major website re-do – bringing the 10-year old website up-to-date. Because this will all be done by volunteers, it will be a big job for us. We also hope to increase our social media visibility. We will continue to improve our record keeping and database management to best track the support we offer and the donations we receive. And we will continue to add new volunteers to our “family” so we don’t burn out the folks who give up so much time and energy to make T&E Care the special organization that it is. As always, we thank those who contribute time, money, and goods to help our neighbors in need.

Completed February, 2016

