



Annual Summary 2012

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.

The generosity of our community made it possible once again for T&E Care to remain focused on giving assistance to families living in or around Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships who were struggling with difficult or emergency situations. In 2012, over 800 community members, businesses or groups made donations of one kind or another to T&E Care with hundreds of people volunteering for our various drives and programs. This community support in the form of financial donations, time and talents made a difference in the lives of over 200 families in need. T&E Care hopes that by providing assistance to families in a difficult situation, they will be able to recover and become self-sufficient.

Over 240 general support checks were written in 2012, totaling over \$122,000 in assistance of one form or another to local families from many different backgrounds. The biggest areas of financial assistance included housing, utilities, education and transportation. Additional assistance was provided to pay for medical bills, food, job-related fees (application fees, etc.), baby and child supplies, and emergency support (such as medical emergencies). T&E Care also provided around \$2000 in general gift card support throughout the year (not counting the cards from the 2 drives listed below). Additional help was provided for budgeting advice, legal advice, tax preparation, resume review and job placement. Some families received furniture, household items, clothes, baby items and food.

Program assistance to families

In order to respond to the individual needs of families, in 2012 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 fiscal year.

- **Home and Hearth:** T&E Care gave some sort of housing assistance to over 45 families in the amount of over \$37,000. Most of this assistance was for rent or mortgage payments, but some was for home repairs. Utilities payments of over \$14,000 were paid for around 50 bills such as oil, PECO, water, Verizon, Comcast, etc.
- **Transportation Assistance Program:** Over \$13,000 in bills were paid for car repairs, inspections, car tag transfers, and train/taxi fares. Nine cars were donated in 2012 which we transferred to local families. Access to transportation is one of the most significant ways that we are able to positively impact families who are struggling.
- **College Assistance Program:** In 2012 T&E Care made 35 different payments to 18 students in the CAP program, totaling over \$29,000. Payments were made to cover college related expenses including SAT test fees, tuition assistance payments, textbook purchases, college admission fees, and general college required fees. High school seniors who meet eligibility criteria can apply for assistance. Students can continue to receive this support throughout their college years, as long as their grades and activities reflect their efforts to be successful. Volunteer mentors work with many students in our efforts to provide more than just financial support.
- **Computers For Kids Program:** We provided approximately 30 computers or related equipment to students in 2012. Seven college bound students received new laptops. The remaining 23 donations were refurbished computers, printers or other computer related supplies. Most expenses related to this program, especially the cost of the new computers, were covered by a \$6000 grant from FLITE, the local education foundation. (The grant covered the 2011/2012 school year.)

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

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- Meal Assistance Program: Approximately 10 students were supported during the 2011/2012 school year as a result of this program. These were students whose parents make just over the federal guidelines for free/reduced lunch assistance. Each student received around \$30 per month in his/her lunch account, totaling almost \$2300 in assistance.
- Summer Camp Program: Almost 50 youngsters were provided with a week or two of summer camp in 2012, and volunteers provided transportation for 5 of them. T&E Care spent almost \$6000 covering camp tuition fees, and many area camps also donated over 20 scholarships to help us spread out our assistance even more.
- Textbook Scholarship Program: At the conclusion of the 2011/2012 school year, T&E Care awarded two Conestoga High School seniors going to college each a \$500 scholarship for the purchase of books. The students were selected on the basis of need, motivation in class, and their willingness to give back in the school community.
- School Supply Drive: Assistance was given in August 2012 to almost 180 students from about 100 families. Students received book bags and supplies with a value of approximately \$13,000, and over \$6600 in gift cards (for clothing or food) to start the school year. Community members or local businesses donated almost all of the items requested for this drive; nominal T&E Care funds were required for this program.
- Holiday Drive: Over 70 families (200 people) were given assistance, including gifts, boxes of food and cleaning supplies/toiletries, as well as over \$15,000 in gift cards. Community members or local businesses donated almost all of the items requested for this drive; nominal T&E Care funds were required for this program.
- Special dinners: Ten local families were offered food for the Thanksgiving holiday, and 8 more families were offered similar assistance for Christmas meals. Food and other assistance was provided by many local community members, The Kitchen Workshop, Johnson Matthey, St. Luke Lutheran Church, and students in the Amana Foundation. No T&E Care funds were required for this program.
- 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 first annual "Grab Bag". Donations of \$5/bag were requested. Many families supported by T&E Care were offered bags of clothes at no charge. Approximately \$1600 was raised through this event, but even more importantly it was a great way to help families needing clothing. 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 the other.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses for 2012 totaled approximately \$2600, or 1% of our total cash expenses. These costs included expenses such as insurance, our post-office box, state filing fees, Pay Pal fees, and a local business association membership. T&E Care continues to have no paid employees, no office expenses, and very little overhead. Most of the supplies, including printing and postage costs, are donated. There is no official office, so there is no rent or utility fees associated with the organization. Donations truly do go directly back to the families T&E Care supports.

Fund Raising Efforts

All the assistance given requires financial resources. In total, T&E Care raised approximately \$165,000 in cash (not including gift cards) to fund T&E Care programs and provide assistance in 2012. The 5th annual Fall Fest was again the main fundraiser, raising over \$49,000 in 2012. (This far exceeded our expectations – we had an unusually generous group in attendance!) As in the past, a few community members or groups also held some smaller fundraisers on behalf of T&E Care. For example, in 2012

there was a 5-K event with proceeds going to T&E Care, donations in lieu of gifts at a few parties, a dance for the T&E Care school supply drive, and a number of sports teams and school groups that ran special events for T&E Care (bringing in both cash donations and donations of items).

Our biggest source of financial assistance comes from members of our community who make cash donations throughout the year. Over 185 community members made individual donations in 2012 for a total of \$57,000. These donations were above and beyond the generous support received at the Fall Fest. A number of foundations and local organizations also supported T&E Care's efforts with a total of over \$20,000 in 2012. Additionally the TD Bank Affinity Program offered over \$14,000 in funding for our College Assistance Program (CAP). The support of many local churches (over \$4000), businesses (\$8000) and school groups and PTOs (almost \$4000) was also important in funding the 2012 programs. Interest income and other types of donations added another \$9,000 to the total raised in 2012.

Additionally, gift card donations totaled over \$23,000 in 2012, donated by many individuals and groups, plus local businesses and foundations such as Wegmans, Johnson Matthey Inc., and the ReMax Main Line Charitable Foundation. These gift cards were used in conjunction with our school supply drive and our holiday drive, as well as general assistance throughout the year.

Other types of donations

T&E Care also received in-kind support from a number of local businesses in 2012, such as the annual financial statement review, discounted car repairs for local families, free tuition from a number of area camps, and food for the holiday dinners. Many area businesses and individuals made donations of prizes for the Fall Fest auction. Local Girl Scout troops and sports teams donated time and goods for various efforts assisting families. One Girl Scout troop baked over 800 cookies for the holidays for a number of families! The local high school crew team helped with a number of furniture moves and other high school students helped with the sorting of items at our school supply drive. Two retired IT gentlemen continue to do most of the computer refurbishing and new computer set-ups at no charge. Nine families donated used cars to local neighbors – one of the more significant ways to positively impact a family's situation. Finally many community members donated furniture, clothing, baby supplies, and other items to help families when the need was announced.

In 2013 and beyond

The main focus of T&E Care will continue to be reacting quickly when family situations arise. Current programs are being refined for 2013 and beyond. Household financial curricula are being created to give assistance to families who need budgeting advice. T&E Care will continue to mentor students in their college planning process as needed, including assistance with FAFSA preparation and college applications. The organization will continue to update its website with new information for both the donors (information about upcoming events and various needs) and those in need (information about local jobs, helpful links to local resources, available furniture, etc.), and to expand its presence on Facebook to help spread the word to an even broader group. The bigger our network, the better the chance that someone can help out with a specific request or need. We are neighbors helping neighbors. As always, T&E Care thanks all those who contribute time, money, and goods to help out our neighbors in need.

Completed February, 2013