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erism often starts and stays — in the schools

s such as high-school training, College Interview the Challenge program er various events held out the district. In addition [the] PTOs work side-by-side with the professional staff, cultural programs that enrich students' experiences and after-school programs and enrich the curriculum.

Wood thought the number of speakers as a reaction to the school shootings and inspired by PTO volunteer men, who has remained. Last spring during the school's final week former Philadelphia Eagle Vince Papadimos had just been featured in the movie "Invincible," was the guest speaker, but he was only one.

The biggest task is trying to find speakers for the [speaking program]," Guttman said. The speakers coordinate them... a lot of work — biographies have to be written, there's a lot of work — biographies; each student is supposed to see four speakers. Hospitality, both preparing [refreshments]. Fifty parent-volunteers are acting as introducers, one per speaker.

The middle school's PTO is working on the funding of interactive whiteboards for classrooms. Fund-raising for technology cost "\$25,000 last year" and will continue this year, Guttman indicated. Guttman, like many other PTO volunteers, spends many hours working out in the schools. "I really want to get in there," Guttman said, comparing the things he does with being "in the heart of everything that goes on at the school."

Guttman is selling gym uniforms at the school yesterday," she added. "Fund-raising is something that volunteer organizations can be really good at." The Radnor Educational Foundation's 2007-08 grant total \$20,170, which included funding for a musical improvisation program that taught Ithan

Elementary School students to use rhythms from African, Caribbean and Middle Eastern cultures, a \$5,000 AP computer-science and technology grant at Radnor High School, \$3,030.47 at Radnor Middle School for the "Gateways Flight & Space Unit" and bringing the National Circus Project back to Radnor Elementary for \$4,000. In all, REF funded 15 grants last year that, according to its mission statement,

will be a gala fund-raiser in February.

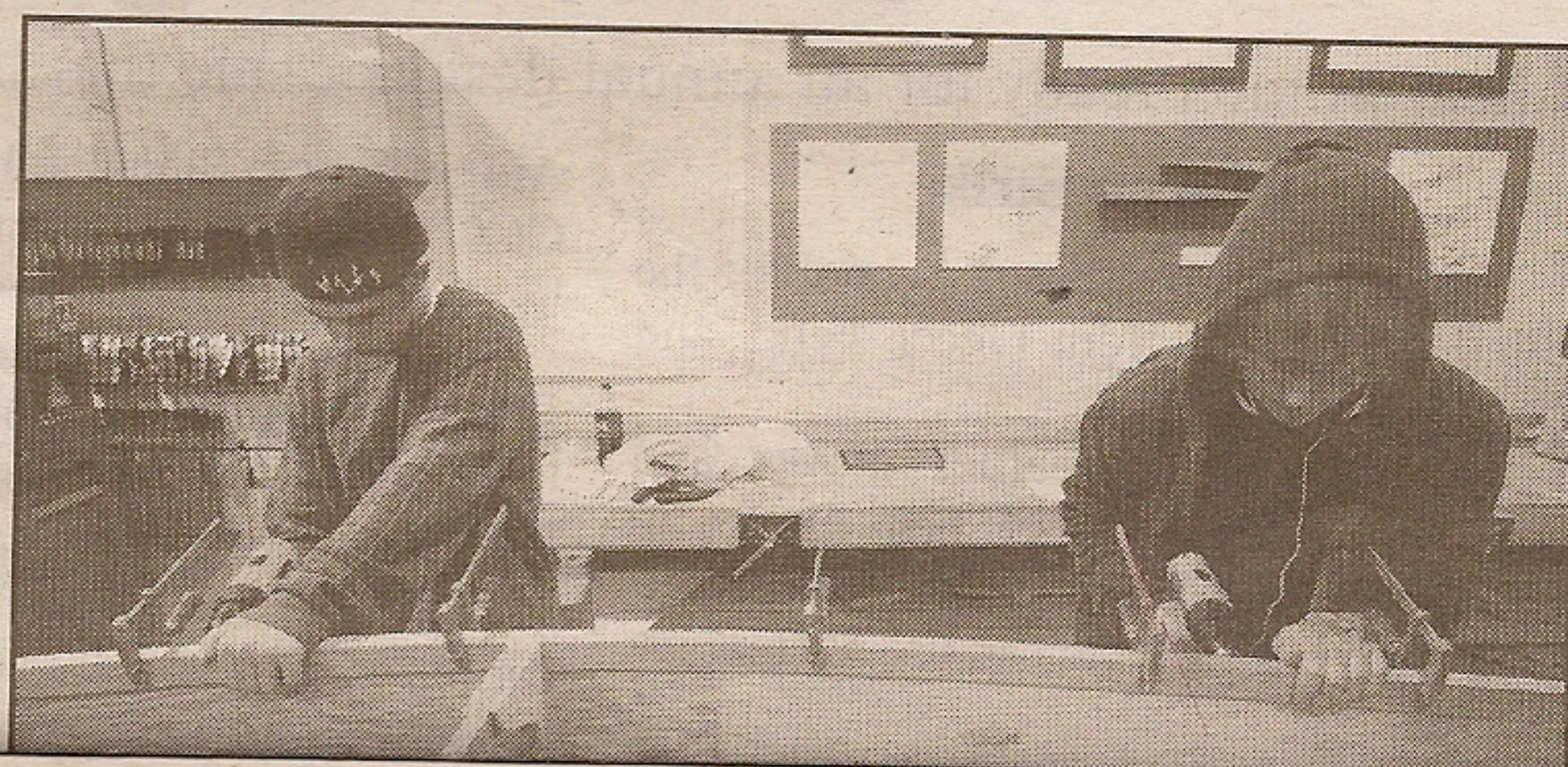
Tom Colman, a 25-year-old, now retired, SmithKline executive with a Ph.D. in chemistry, founded FLITE (Foundation for Learning In Tredyffrin/Easttown) in 2006. There were two reasons.

"Generally," Colman said, the idea was "to support public education. [But] special and distinct, [to support] kids who have obstacles to academic achievement." Colman describes "obstacles" as all kinds, including, but not limited to, economic ones.

This year FLITE, which serves "an estimated 250-300 kids," is sponsoring tutoring programs in all five of T/E's elementary schools, the middle-school tutoring programs, "Oasis" at Valley Forge and the "T/E Club" at Tredyffrin/Easttown, which serve students who need additional support to keep their academics up to standard, and at Conestoga High School a college-workshop program designed to serve "families without a college tradition." Because all of these programs operate after school with students who are less likely to find transportation home afterwards (T/E runs no "late" buses), busing has become a necessary FLITE priority, one that now costs \$45,000 a year according to Colman.

FLITE is also buying 70 programmable graphing calculators for students at the high school who can't otherwise afford them.

"Our approach is to say, 'What are the barriers to these kids?' [with the result] 'We've got to buy these calculators,'" Colman said, stressing that these are not "school loaners," which can become a stig-



ma said. Volunteers help a lot with mailings and with finding ways to enlarge the contribution base.

"We're a low-key organization," Colman said. "If you think the cause is worth it, write a check."

Colman called FLITE "the most gratifying thing I've ever done."

FLITE often works in collaboration with T&E Care, an organization formed recently to help community families in need.

According to auxiliary board member Sandi Gorman, "we complement each other very nicely," and especially when a family's lack of a home computer means "a huge disadvantage" at school for the children.

A licensed Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR), T&E Care is working on "40 to 50 towers [received] from the community," with a couple of companies having recently donated a total of 35 units that they have replaced with newer ones, according to Gorman. Erasing hard drives and reinstalling Windows XP and Office 2003 software, at a cost of \$10, from Microsoft (Internet access is optional), takes about three hours each.

"One of the best things we've done is to make the community aware of people in need," Gorman said to emphasize that T&E Care operates in response to emergency need, and that donations of computers, personal services, home repairs or appliances are then matched to people who need them. With its computer-refurbishing program, as with its recent school-supplies drive, T&E Care has frequently if indirectly reached out to young people.

amounts ranging from \$800 to \$2,500 according to its president, Art Lewis.

"We've been around since 1966," Lewis said. "It's amazing how many people need financial help."

The scholarship fund is run by unpaid volunteers from the community. Its income comes from a variety of sources, which include mailing campaigns to the Radnor community, local corporations and past Radnor graduates; fund-raising events such as Radnor's Fourth of July Fireworks, Breakfast with Santa, a spring dinner and auction, art shows featuring local artists and donations and bequests from individuals and organizations, according to its Web site.

"Further education in any field of choice can only make the future brighter for a young person and contribute to a stronger, more informed community," the Web site continues with a certainty born of experience.

Lewis, who retired from the Radnor Township School Board in December after 16 years, said he "got on [the scholarship fund board] about 1983" and became president in 1988.

He also teaches Sunday school and sits on the board of the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Chester and does other charitable work. Radnor people would probably agree that he is an example of how long and far volunteerism can extend and a reminder that volunteers who put in sometimes thankless and seemingly endless hours can often be known as school-board members, too.