

Suburban July 24, 2008

T&E Care has school-supply drive

Community members mobilize to collect and distribute school supplies and recycle computers for local students

BERWYN — Tredyffrin & Easttown Care (T&E Care) is helping local kids feel good about the start of school. The community nonprofit group helps families in need in Tredyffrin, Easttown and Radnor townships and the Great Valley School District.

T&E Care started as a way to help families who moved to the area after Hurricane Katrina.

Members soon realized that some families already living in area neighborhoods were struggling just like those who had left New Orleans. So T&E Care became an official nonprofit and now helps local families.

T&E Care is collecting "required" school supplies, pencils, pens, calculators and notebooks, to distribute to local students in need. Area residents can help by picking up extra notebooks or pencils while shopping for their own children. Or they can buy supplies

for one child or one family. A list of supplies is on the T&E Care Web site, www.tecare.org.

T&E Care also accepts gift cards. The Web site includes a list of stores that are especially responsive to gift cards.

"Gathering school supplies is such a simple gesture of community spirit, but it can make a big difference to these students," said T&E Care board member and former Tredyffrin-Easttown School Board member Sandi Gorman. "In addition to the standard school supplies, we have a big need for graphing calculators. These are a big expense for families, but they are required for many high-school math classes."

T&E Care is also an authorized Microsoft Non-profit Refurbisher, which enables the group to collect, fix and distribute computers to students who need them for school.

"We'll wipe your hard drive of personal information, install all the needed software programs and place your old computer with a student who needs it to complete their homework," said Auxiliary Board and T-E school-board member member Debbie Bookstaber. "If your computer is in good working order and can run Windows XP or better, we can find it a good home. We'll take good working printers as well."

According to Bookstaber T&E Care has placed over 50 computers so far and still has dozens of students on a waiting list.

T&E Care will be collecting supplies from July 22 through Aug. 8. T&E Care relies on the local community for support. All of its funding comes from local donations.

Visit www.tecare.org for more information. Send questions related to the school-supply drive to schoolsupply@tecare.org.