



Annual Summary 2019

*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 2019, over 950 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 over 300 local families in need, with 58 of them new to us in 2019, our 14<sup>th</sup> year serving the T/E area.

Over 310 support payments were made in 2019, with over \$217,000 in monetary assistance to these local families. The biggest areas of financial support included housing, utilities, college, and transportation bills. Additional assistance was provided for medical bills, childcare costs, educational (non- college) bills, and other sorts of emergency support. T&E Care also provided occasional gift card support throughout the year, as well as during the school supply drive and the holiday drive (as detailed below). Additional help was provided for budgeting advice, college mentoring, resume review, and job placement. Some families received donated furniture, household items, clothes, baby items, food and even cars.

**Program assistance to families**

In addition to periodic requests for assistance, T&E Care offers 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. Included below are charts to show how our programs have fared over the last 2 years.

- **Home and Hearth:** When a family is living on the streets, has no electricity in a house, or needs food and clothing but has no money, it’s hard to imagine how daily activities continue. This is our biggest “reactive” program. Over \$75,000 in cash assistance was offered for Home & Hearth related bills in 2019, the majority of which was for housing and utilities. Most of the housing payments were for rent or mortgage payments, although there were some property taxes, motel stays, and home repairs as well. Payments for utility bills included oil, PECO, water, phone, internet, and trash. In addition, food, clothing, and household goods were distributed to families, along with over \$1,200 in donated gift cards for similar needs (not counting the food, clothing, and gift cards associated with our various drives).

	Housing payments	Utility payments
2018	38 payments/~\$52,000	32 payments/\$16,000+
2019	61 payments/~\$64,000	24 payments/\$9,000+

- Transportation Assistance Program: Access to transportation is one of the most significant ways that we are able to positively impact families. Bills we covered for car payments, repairs, inspections, car tag transfers, and insurance in 2019.

	Car repairs/purchase assistance	Car donations
2018	13 families/\$11,000+	2
2019	20 families/\$15,000+	1

- College Assistance Program: Helping a student go to and stay in college can provide a total economic shift for the student and his/ her family. In 2019, T&E Care made payments of over \$78,000, covering college-related expenses such as SAT fees and college admission costs, tuition and room & board, and textbooks. We also helped two students buy used cars. One needed transportation for her student teaching experience and the other is saving money by commuting from home instead of living on campus. Many students also choose to work with one of our volunteer mentors, who Offer advice during the college admission process and continue to provide guidance while the student attends college or trade school. High school juniors and seniors who meet eligibility criteria may 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 2019, there are 21 graduates who have worked with T&E Care, and most have jobs in their majors.

	# of students supported financially	Tuition/room/board payments	Textbook payments	Fees & transportation payments
2018	37	\$73,000+	\$4,000+	\$8,000+
2019	31	\$68,600	\$3,700	\$9,800

- Computers for Kids Program: We again provided refurbished laptops and related equipment to students and families in 2019. We are licensed Microsoft refurbishers and all our refurbished computers are donated. Volunteers do all the refurbishing and distributing of these computers. We are giving away fewer refurbished computers since the local school district initiated a program in 2017 offering new laptops to all students in grades 7-12, meaning fewer students are requesting refurbished computers. Additionally, we gave new laptops to some of the students we support with our College Assistance Program. The majority of our \$7000 computer budget is for the new laptops and computer-related supplies for our college-bound students, most of which were covered by a \$7,000 grant from FLITE, a local education foundation. There are also a few incidental expenses related to our refurbishing program (licensing fees, occasional missing power cords, etc.).

	# of refurbished computers handed out	# of new laptops for CAP students
2018	10	10
2019	11	9

- **Meal Assistance Program:** Some district students were supported each month during the 2018/2019 school year as a result of this program (the number can vary monthly as students are added or move away). Students are eligible if their parents make *just* over the federal guidelines for free/reduced lunch assistance. Each student received \$35-\$55 per month in his/her lunch account (depending on the grade level).

	# of students receiving at least some support during the school year	Total funds spent
2017/2018	38 average	\$15,700+
2018/2019	30 average	\$11,400*+

\*These numbers do not match our budget as they are school-year based and the budget is yearly based.

- **Summer Camp Program:** Many local youth were provided a week or more of summer camp in 2019.

	# of students receiving support	Amount of financial assistance	# of scholarships/value
2018	75	\$17,000+	9 scholarships/\$2800
2019	87	~\$18,000	8 scholarships/\$1500

- **School Supply Drive:** Assistance was given in August 2019 to students, in terms of book bags, supplies, and gift cards (for clothing or food or other supplies). No T&E Care general funds were needed for this drive. Community members or local businesses/organizations donated all of the items requested for this drive directly or through cash donations. We also received a \$3,000 grant from FLITE which helped with the purchase of book bags. Partnerships with the local high school and libraries allow us to receive and sort the supplies. We are proud of the partnerships we have developed with many local businesses and organizations who contributed supplies, gift cards, cash donations, or volunteer time for this and other events.

	# of students/families receiving support	Value of donated bookbags and supplies	Value of gift cards
2018	210/110	\$13,000+	~\$8,700
2019	216/113	~\$6800	~\$8,800

- **Holiday Drive:** Families were offered gifts, food baskets, cleaning supplies, toiletries and gift cards for the holidays. 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. A partnership with St. John's Presbyterian Church allows us to use the church building for a week to receive and sort all the gifts prior to delivery.

	# families receiving support	Value of donated gifts	Value of gift cards
2018	111	\$38,000+	~\$35,000
2019	114	\$40,000+	~\$35,000

- **Special Dinners:** Local families received bags and bags of food for their Thanksgiving dinners and December holiday meals. All the food, including meat and fresh produce, was donated by local community members, as well as by 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 both dinner programs possible, where volunteers gathered to cook and/or sort items before delivering them to the families.

	# of families - Thanksgiving dinners	# of families – Holiday dinners
2018	10	10
2019	10	10

- **Kids’ Clothing Event:** Each spring T&E Care collects donations of children’s clothing from all over the community. Then volunteers sort the items and display them for people to come and “fill a bag” at our annual Kids’ Clothing Event. Donations of \$10/bag are requested when budgets allowed. At our 8<sup>th</sup> annual event, a large number of families supported by T&E Care (and many others in and around our community who struggle periodically) were offered bags of clothes at no charge. From those who made donations, about \$5800 was raised through this event (compared to \$5,200 in 2018). This is also a wonderful opportunity for anyone in the community (individuals, scout groups, school clubs, families we support, etc.) to volunteer to help out. Hundreds of volunteers participated in one way or another.

**Administrative expenses**

Administrative expenses for 2018 included items such as the financial review, Director’s and Officer’s insurance, our post- office box fees, state filing fees, and a local business association membership. Costs were higher this year due to the one-time purchase of a database program. T&E Care continues to have no paid employees. 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.

	Administrative costs	% of total expenses
2018	\$ 4,500+	~ 1.5%
2019	~ \$10,000	~2.6%

**Fundraising Efforts**

All the assistance given to families requires financial resources. T&E Care volunteers worked hard to raise the money needed to fund the various programs and provide assistance in 2019. Our biggest sources of financial support came from members of our community who make cash donations throughout the year or during the various fundraisers.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Fest was again our main fundraiser. Our 52 different sponsors were a large reason for this amazing success this year, in addition to a great silent auction and raffle. We also recognized a Board member who is very well connected to the community. As in the past, a number of community members or groups also held fundraisers on behalf of T&E Care, such as a student race at one of our elementary schools and a holiday alternative gifts at a local church. Other examples include shopping days at local stores, a German holiday market, an exercise event at Mojo Fitness, and a number of school groups, churches, and

other local 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, Vanguard Your Cause, 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 such as CCRES, the WW Smith Charitable Trust, the IGN Foundation, the Philadelphia Foundation, Fox & Roach Charities, Vanguard Hometown Grants, the Gerry Lenfest Legacy Fund, the Connelly Foundation, and the Foundation for Learning in T/E. The support of many local churches, businesses, school groups, and PTOs was also important in funding the 2019 programs.

Additionally, gift card donations totaled over \$46,000 in 2019 coming from many individuals, plus local businesses, groups, foundations, and the local band concert. As discussed earlier, most of these gift cards were used in conjunction with our school supply drive, holiday drive, and for general assistance throughout the year.

	Fall Fest	Grants	Outside Fundraisers	General Donations
2018	\$122,000+	\$46,000	\$12,000+	\$111,000+
2019	\$130,000+	\$70,000+	\$10,000+	\$137,000+

### **Other types of donations**

Besides business donations already mentioned, such as summer camp scholarships, many area businesses and individuals donated prizes for the Fall Fest auction. Additionally, a number of girl scout troops baked over 300 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. Two 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 Clothing Drive, Holiday Drive, 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. We are truly a community with a caring heart!

### **In 2019 and beyond**

T&E Care is all about neighbors helping neighbors. We remain focused in our mission of helping local families who struggle and coming up with ways to offer assistance that is more long-term. We regularly hear how much our donors like the fact that we are all-volunteer and all local! In 2019, we will continue to refine our programs to make them run even more effectively and efficiently. We will strive to establish a better method to track budget and HR needs for families and improve coordination with college students and parents. We created a new website in 2019 which we will continue to upgrade. We also began to create “how-to” manuals for each program and general organization, which we aim to complete in 2019. We will continue to improve our record keeping and database management to best track the support we offer and the donations we receive. New volunteers and board members will be added as needed, and new strategic ideas will be shared with other non-profits in the community. As always, we thank those who contribute time, money, and goods to help our neighbors in need.

Completed March 2020