



Annual Summary 2015

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 made it possible 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 2015, almost 900 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 almost 50 of them new to us in 2015. In 2015 we celebrated our 10th year of service to the community at a recognition ceremony. We were gratified to be joined by many community leaders and supporters as we recognized the generous and dedicated neighbors who have helped us out these past 10 years.

Over 310 general support payments were made in 2015, totaling almost \$190,000 in monetary assistance to local families. The biggest areas of financial assistance included housing, utilities, education and transportation. Additional assistance was provided to pay for over \$14,000 in medical bills, as well as tax bills, childcare costs, educational (non-college) bills, and other sorts of emergency support. T&E Care also provided over \$1100 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 2015, 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:** Almost \$52,000 in cash assistance was offered for housing and utility bills in 2015. Some of the \$52,000 was for food and clothing, but the majority was for housing and utilities. T&E Care paid over \$36,000 of housing assistance. Most of these 40 payments were for rent or mortgage payments, although there were some storage unit bills, insurance bills, and property tax bills included. Payments of almost \$14,400 covered 38 utility bills such as oil, PECO, water, Verizon, Comcast, etc. for 26 different families. In addition, food, clothing, and household goods were distributed to families, along with over \$1170 in donated gift cards for similar needs.
- **Transportation Assistance Program:** Over \$17,000 in bills was paid for 21 different individuals for car repairs, inspections, car tag transfers, insurance and the assistance in the purchase of 2 cars. In addition, two cars were donated in 2015, 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 2015 T&E Care made payments to support over 30 students in the CAP program, totaling over \$65,000. Payments covered college related expenses including SAT fees and college admission costs, tuition room & board (almost \$54,000), 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

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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 to announce that five CAP students graduated from college in June 2015 and all 5 have jobs in their majors!

- Computers For Kids Program: We provided over 32 computers or related equipment to students and families in 2015. Twelve college-bound students received new laptops, 1 school-age vision-impaired student received a new computer, and over 20 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 minimal computer expenses such as repair parts for a few of the donated computers (such as a battery or a power cord). 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 \$7000 grant from FLITE, the local education foundation. (The grant overlapped the 2014/2015 school year.)
- Meal Assistance Program: Ten to fifteen students were supported during the 2014/2015 school year as a result of this program (the number can vary monthly). For the first half of 2015 our numbers seemed to run about the same. Students are eligible if their parents make just over the federal guidelines for free/reduced lunch assistance. Each student received \$30-\$40 per month in his/her lunch account (depending on the school level), totaling almost \$6400 in assistance for calendar year 2015.
- Summer Camp Program: Over ninety youngsters were provided with a week or two of summer camp in 2015, and volunteers provided transportation for three of them. T&E Care spent almost \$17,000 covering camp tuition fees, and some local camps also donated scholarships (15 in total, valuing almost \$3000) to help us reach even more children. This program had a significant increase in amount paid and the number of children participating as compared to 2014.
- School Supply Drive: Assistance was given in August 2015 to almost 220 students (from about 110 families). Book bags and supplies (with a value of almost \$10,000) and almost \$8500 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 \$2320 grant from the 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 105 families (over 315 individuals) were given almost \$69,000 in assistance, including over \$38,000 worth of gifts, food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries, as well as over \$30,000 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: Eleven local families received bags and bags of food for their Thanksgiving holiday dinners, and another eleven families were offered similar assistance for Christmas meals. All the food, including much 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 fourth annual "Grab Bag". Donations of \$10/bag were requested. All families supported by T&E Care (and others asking for help) were offered bags of clothes at no charge. Almost \$5400 was raised through this event, but even more importantly it was a great program 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 another.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses for 2015 totaled a little over \$8000, or a little under 3% of our total expenses. These costs include expenses such as insurance, our post-office box, state filing fees, Pay Pal fees, and a local business association membership. These expenses went up in 2015 about \$4600 because of a required state audit. 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.

Fund Raising Efforts

All the assistance given requires financial resources. In total, T&E Care raised over \$230,000 (not including gift cards and non-cash donations) to fund T&E Care programs and provide assistance in 2015. Our biggest source of financial support comes from members of our community who make cash donations throughout the year.

The 8th annual Fall Fest was again our main fundraiser, raising over \$84,000, net of expenses, in 2015. Our 38 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 almost \$24,000. For example, in 2015 there was a 5K held in a neighborhood, and a student run at one of our elementary schools, both with proceeds going to T&E Care. Other examples include a Wellness Festival by the local business association; a shopping day at Jennifer on the Avenue; car wash discount coupons (Spa Car Wash); a band performance and dinner at 30 Main; an exercise event at Mojo Fitness; a change day at TD Bank; 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 through United Way, Amazon Smile, and a number of companies who match employee contributions.

We had successful grant applications to a number of local foundations including CCRES, Kistler Tiffany, the Wawa Foundation, the Chester County Community Foundation, and FLITE, totaling over \$20,000 in support. The support of many local churches, businesses, school groups, and PTOs was also important in funding the 2015 programs.

Additionally, gift card donations totaled over \$42,000 in 2015, coming from many individuals and groups, plus local businesses, groups, and foundations such as Wegmans, Johnson Matthey Inc., the Blue Sky Band concert, and the ReMAX Main Line Charitable Foundation. These gift cards were used in conjunction with our school supply and our holiday drives, and for general assistance throughout the year.

Other types of donations

T&E Care also received in-kind support from a number of local businesses and groups in 2015, such as 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 donated prizes for the Fall Fest auction, or donated desserts or photography for the event. Local Girl Scout troops and sports teams donated time and goods for various efforts. One Girl Scout troop baked over 100 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. A number of local businesses donated food, decorations, and a facility for our 10-year anniversary celebration. Finally, many community members donated computers, furniture, clothing, baby supplies, and other items to help families when the need was announced.

In 2016 and beyond

T&E Care is about neighbors helping neighbors. While we remain focused in our scope and size, helping local families who struggle, we expect to improve and refine our programs and services in 2016. In particular, we will address four areas. First, we want to strengthen our ability to help families with budgeting and job search needs. Second, we hope to expand our involvement with college-bound students looking to find the right school. Third, we plan to reorganize our “Stuff” Program to better match family needs with donor offers. Finally, we will continue to update our website with improved information for both donors and those in need. As always, T&E Care thanks those who contribute time, money, and goods to help our neighbors in need.



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