



## Annual Summary 2014

*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 2014, almost 650 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 200 local families in need, with over 50 of them new to us in 2014.

Over 330 general support payments were made in 2014, totaling over 207,000 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 medical bills, food, job-related fees, child care, and other emergency support. T&E Care also provided over \$4000 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, legal 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 2014, 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**: Over \$80,000 in cash assistance was offered for housing and utility bills in 2014. T&E Care gave approximately \$52,000 of housing assistance. Most of these 48 payments were for rent or mortgage payments. Payments of over \$28,000 covered almost 60 utility bills such as oil, PECO, water, Verizon, Comcast, etc. In addition, food, clothing, and household goods were distributed to families, along with over \$4000 in gift cards for similar needs.
- **Transportation Assistance Program**: Almost \$20,000 in bills was paid for 29 different individuals for car repairs, inspections, car tag transfers, and insurance. In addition, four cars were donated in 2014, and we assisted in the purchase of one car, all 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 2014 T&E Care made payments to support 34 students in the CAP program, totaling over \$62,000. Three students who had received financial support in 2013 did not ask for help in 2014. Payments covered college related expenses including SAT fees, tuition, room & board, textbooks, admission and other required college fees. T&E Care also awarded \$500 book scholarships to two college-bound Conestoga High School seniors. High school juniors 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 and activities reflect their efforts to be successful. Volunteer mentors work with many students in our desire to provide more than just financial support.
- **Computers For Kids Program**: We provided almost 40 computers or related equipment to students and families in 2014. Eleven college-bound students received new laptops, and over 25 refurbished

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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, and we did not need any new licenses from Microsoft in 2014. There were no computer expenses other than the new CAP laptops and computer-related supplies, all of which were covered by a \$7000 grant from FLITE, the local education foundation. (The grant overlapped the 2013/2014 school year.)

- **Meal Assistance Program:** Ten to fifteen students were supported during the 2013/2014 school year as a result of this program (the number can vary monthly). 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, totaling approximately \$6500 in assistance for calendar year 2014.
- **Summer Camp Program:** Over eighty youngsters were provided with a week or two of summer camp in 2014, and volunteers provided transportation for 4 of them. T&E Care spent over \$14,000 covering camp tuition fees, and many area camps also donated over 31 weeks of scholarships 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 2013.
- **School Supply Drive:** Assistance was given in August 2014 to over 215 students (from about 110 families). Book bags and supplies (with a value of over \$15,000) and almost \$9000 in gift cards (for clothing or food or other supplies) were distributed to these students. Community members or local businesses donated almost all of the items requested for this drive directly or through cash donations. We did receive a \$3450 grant from the FLITE to help with the purchase of bookbags and flash drives.
- **Holiday Drive:** Almost 100 families (over 300 individuals) were given over \$45,000 in assistance, including over \$28,000 of gifts, food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries, as well as over \$16,900 in gift cards. Community members and local businesses donated almost all of the items requested for this drive, directly or with cash donations.
- **Special dinners:** Nine local families received food for the Thanksgiving holiday dinner, and 8 more families were offered similar assistance for Christmas meals. Food and other assistance were provided by many local community members, 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 third annual "Grab Bag". Donations of \$5/bag were requested. Many families supported by T&E Care were offered bags of clothes at no charge. Over \$3600 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 2014 totaled approximately \$4100, or 1.5% of our total 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 and no office expenses. Most of the supplies, including 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 \$267,000 (not including gift cards and non-cash donations) to fund T&E Care programs and provide assistance in 2014. Our biggest source of financial support comes from members of our community who make cash donations throughout the year. In 2014 we received over \$128,000 in unrestricted donations, including 1 donation of stock.

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Fest was again our main fundraiser, raising over \$64,000, net of expenses, in 2014. As in the past, a few community members or groups also held fundraisers on behalf of T&E Care, bringing in over \$14,500. For example, in 2014 there was a 5-K event and a student “Fun Run” with proceeds going to T&E Care, donations in lieu of gifts at a few parties, a shopping day at Jennifer on the Avenue, car wash discount coupons (Spa Car Wash) with proceeds for T&E Care, a band performance and dinner at 30 Main, an exercise event at Mojo Fitness, 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).

We had successful grant applications to a number of local foundations including CCRES, The Grace S. and W. Linton Nelson Foundation, the WW Smith Charitable Trust, PNC Foundation, and FLITE, totaling over \$56,000 in support. The support of many local churches, businesses, school groups, and PTOs was also important in funding the 2014 programs.

Additionally, gift card donations totaled over \$25,000 in 2014, coming from many individuals and groups, plus local businesses, groups, and foundations such as Shire Pharmaceuticals, Wegmans, Johnson Matthey Inc., the Blue Sky Band, 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 in 2014, 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 donated prizes for the Fall Fest auction, or donated desserts for the event, the printing for the programs, or the photography for the event. The band even played at the Fall Fest at no cost. 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 big bags of clothes for our clothing drive or helped at the event itself. 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 Grab Bag 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. As stated earlier – four families even donated cars.

### **In 2015 and beyond**

T&E Care prides itself in its continuing ability to react quickly when family emergencies arise. Current programs are being updated for 2015 and beyond. As more of our CAP students are graduating from college, our job assistance will be refined and student budgeting will be developed for 2015. 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.). We will continue to expand our presence on Facebook to help spread the word to an even broader group. We continue to be neighbors helping neighbors. As always, T&E Care thanks all those who contribute time, money, and goods to help out our neighbors in need.

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