



Texas Retired Teachers Foundation

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TRTF Talking Points: Fall 2018

Initiatives and Goals: What our Foundation does!

- I. Did you know TRTF has given out more than \$483,000 to educators all across Texas since 2008? Please help us make a difference in the lives of educators by supporting Foundation Month!
 - a. November 2018 has been designated by the TRTA Board of Directors as Foundation Month.
 - b. TRTF is asking all TRTA local units and districts to designate any meeting this fall to raise funds for Foundation Month.
 - c. All members of TRTA will also receive an annual appeal letter from TRTF in the 3rd quarter issue of *The VOICE*.
 - d. Last year, \$87,000 in donations were received from this fundraising effort!
 - e. This year, TRTF hopes to reach \$100,000 in donations.
 - f. The Foundation's 2018-19 goals:
 - i. TRTF will provide 21 \$750 beginning teacher scholarships to recent college graduates who will be teaching for the first time in 2019. This is an increase from the 14 scholarships awarded in 2018. Over the years, TRTF has awarded more than \$78,000 in scholarship funds.
 - ii. TRTF will provide 30 \$500 classroom assistance grants to public school teachers in Texas in 2019. Over the years, TRTF has awarded more than \$78,000 in grants for public school teachers.
 - iii. Applications for the beginning teacher scholarship program and the classroom assistance grant program will be available on the TRTF website www.trtf.org for download by September 1, 2018.
 - iv. TRTF will provide \$20,000 in grants to retirees in critical need through the "A Helping Hand" program in 2019. TRTF has provided more than \$126,000 in grants to retired educators since 2010.
 - v. TRTF will provide limited grants through the Disaster Relief Fund as funds allow. We will continue to raise funds for this program to stand ready for the next disaster. After Hurricane Harvey, TRTF received and distributed more than \$160,000 to more than 450 retired and active educators.
 - vi. TRTF will continue to raise funds for the Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund, which began in 2016 to honor of the 25th anniversary of the CPI Catch-Up Plan.
 1. TRTF is asking all members of TRTA to consider donating \$30 to the fund. All earnings from the endowment fund will be used to support "A Helping Hand" for the foreseeable future, as more and more retirees may be in need of assistance. TRTF hopes to raise at least \$200,000 in donations for this program by December 2019 and has raised \$160,000 so far.

Donations: Making it Work!

- II. Donations are needed to support our many charitable programs: Beginning Teacher Scholarships, Classroom Assistance Grants, "A Helping Hand," and the Legacy Campaign, as well as the Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund and Disaster Relief Fund.
 - a. How to donate:
 - a. Use the donation card found in the Foundation brochure or in the *The VOICE* and mail to the TRTF office:
TRTF
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 220
Austin, TX 78701
 - b. Members can also donate online through the TRTF website (www.trtf.org).
 - c. Members may call the TRTF office in Austin at 1.800.880.1650 and speak with Ashley Friedrichs to make a credit card donation over the phone.

Types of contributions

- b. Donors may give a gift in memory of a loved one. Instead of flowers, members may consider making a lasting memorial contribution to TRTF.
- c. Members may leave a contribution for TRTF in their will.
- d. When donating in memory or in honor of someone, please provide contact information of the person to receive a notification of the donation, including mailing address.
- e. All donations will be acknowledged by the Foundation office.

Fundraising for TRTF

- III. Simple, cost-effective fundraising techniques are available on the TRTF website should your district or local unit choose to raise money for TRTF during the year. They are fun and help members get involved. Visit www.trtf.org/news/simple-fundraising-ideas to learn more.

Why we need our Local Unit Representatives and District Liaisons

- IV. It is important that every local unit designate a person to serve as their Foundation Representative.
 - a. This person should have a computer and an email address, as most correspondence sent by the Foundation is through email.
 - b. TRTF has an electronic newsletter available by email entitled *The Ledger*. Please contact Cindee Sharp to sign up (help@trtf.org).
 - c. TRTF has a Resource Guide to help representatives and liaisons. Email help@trtf.org to request one.
 - d. Foundation brochures are available and may be requested by calling the TRTA state office at 1.800.880.1650 or sending an email to help@trtf.org (please specify the amount needed and provide a mailing address).
 - e. **NEW:** At the 2019 TRTA Convention, TRTF will host a silent auction to help with our fundraising efforts. TRTF is asking all TRTA districts to donate one item for the auction and bring it with them to the convention. Please contact TRTF Trustee Carla Meuth for more information (cgmeuth@sbcglobal.net)

TRTF's Programs

V. "A Helping Hand"

- a. TRTF's program "A Helping Hand" aids public education retirees in critical, emergency need by providing grants. The program has provided over \$126,000 in grants to 124 retirees.
- b. Applications can be requested by contacting the TRTF office at 1.800.880.1650 or sending an email to help@trtf.org. **PLEASE NOTE:** Application materials were updated in August 2018. Please discard any previous application forms.
- c. Local unit presidents or foundation representatives can assist an individual seeking help. They may also receive the grant request and forward them to the TRTF office. A committee will review the applications and upon approval, funds will be forwarded directly to a vendor or company to help the retiree pay for a bill or bid.
- d. A list of recipients is not available for the public, as all applications are kept confidential. Only those recipients who give us permission to share their story are revealed. Grants have helped retirees receive space heaters, pay for utilities, medical and dental bills, eyeglasses, food and even a wheelchair. TRTF has helped purchase hearing aids and dentures.
- e. Recently, our Trustees have been able to refer applicants to an Area Agency on Aging counselor. Some applications that Trustees have reviewed required more help than TRTF was able to provide. Being able to share information about this important resource has provided long-term results for applicants and enhanced their quality of life. For a complete list of Area Agency on Aging offices contact: <https://www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/aaa.cfm>

VI. Beginning Teacher Scholarships

- a. TRTF created the Beginning Teacher Scholarship program to replace its Student Scholarship program in 2017. The program provides funds to recent college graduates who plan to become educators in Texas. Applicants must be related to a member of TRTA. The scholarship assists recipients with paying for certification tests and materials for their very first classroom. The Foundation will award 21 \$750 scholarships in 2019.
- b. Applications will be available on the TRTF website by September 1, 2018 and are due February 28, 2019.

VII. Classroom Assistance Grants

- a. Classroom assistance grants are awarded to public school teachers who demonstrate a daily commitment to public education and Texas children through the creation of programs, events or other learning platforms. TRTF will provide 30 \$500 classroom assistance grants to public school teachers in Texas in 2019.
- b. Applications will be available on the TRTF website by September 1, 2018 and are due February 28, 2019.