

# The TRTF Ledger



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*The latest news and updates from the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation!*

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## Greetings!

**Texas Retired Teachers  
Foundation Liaisons,  
Representatives & Friends!**

Welcome to the September 2012 issue of  
*The Ledger*.



It's that time of year again: **Foundation Month** is right  
around the corner! What can you unit do to promote it?  
See page 2 and 3!

Our "A Helping Hand" program continues to  
grow! Read more on page 4!

TRTF appreciates your feedback.  
Please let us know if the  
newsletter is helpful to you  
as a representative of the  
foundation. Send feedback  
to [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org)

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#### Where can I find "Talking Points" about the Legacy Campaign & more to share at local unit meetings?

Please send an email to Cindee Sharp at [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org) or contact her at 1.800.880.1650 x129 to request a copy.

**NOTE: Talking points have been updated as of August 2012.** They are also available in the **Training Guide**. The most updated version of the Training Guide is now available online through [www.trtf.org](http://www.trtf.org) on the Resources page.

## Foundation Month is Almost Here!

In November 2009, TRTF and TRTA promoted the first ever **Foundation Month**. In 2010, during our second annual Foundation promotion, TRTF was able to raise \$74,000 in donations to fund our three charitable programs: student scholarships, classroom assistance grants, and "A Helping Hand." In 2011, that amount increased to \$76,000 and helped us launch The Legacy Campaign to promote a positive image of public education in Texas. (Read more on page 5 about the wonderful Legacy video your donations funded).

Once again, TRTA and TRTF are designating **November** as the time to increase awareness of the Foundation among the members of TRTA. We hope to raise **\$85,000** or more through this year's campaign!

We are asking all local units to dedicate time during their fall meetings to discuss the Foundation's goals and accomplishments. [If your local unit does not meet in November, please set aside time in your September, October, or December meeting.](#) TRTA is encouraging units to ask its members for donations to the Foundation and to make information available to them about our wonderful organization.

Start marking your calendars and thinking about your programs now! Please contact Cindee at [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org) for information about simple fundraising ideas, to request Foundation brochures, or to request a speaker from our Board of Trustees. We also have **Talking Points** available should your Local Unit Foundation Representative prefer to make the presentation. See page 3 for a few fundraising ideas!

Already made your plans? LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! We'd love to feature the innovative ideas of Local Units from across the state in *The Ledger*! We enjoy receiving your pictures and comments.

TRTF will mail an association-wide appeal letter in the fall. We received a tremendous amount of support from the membership last year. In 2010, the increased awareness and donations allowed us to start "A Helping Hand." Through "A Helping Hand," TRTF has provided over \$31,000 in grants to 35 individuals. Read more about our recent grants on page 4!

Our goals for 2012-2013 include providing 10 \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors and current college students majoring in education. TRTF will also continue its Classroom Assistance Grant program, offering 10 \$500 grants to Texas public school teachers who are creating unique projects and learning platforms for their students. New application forms will be available in December. Deadlines for submitting applications for both programs have not yet been determined.

In 2013, we also hope to provide at least \$10,000 in grants from our emergency assistance program, "A Helping Hand"!

**Depending upon the amount of donations received, TRTF may be able to expand all three programs in the coming fiscal year. The board is discussing these options, and will announce any program expansions in November. *Thank you for all that you do to help us reach our goals!***



## Participate in Foundation Month by Hosting a Local Fundraising Campaign!

### *Simple, Cost-Effective Fundraising Ideas*

**Reverse Raffle:** A reverse raffle is a raffle your local unit members will not want to win! At your fall local unit meeting, provide every member with a free raffle ticket. Tell them they are automatically eligible for a special prize. If they don't want to be eligible, they can "sell" their ticket for \$1 to \$10. Why would they want to get rid of their ticket? Because when their ticket is drawn, they will have to perform an embarrassing task, such as singing a silly song or wearing a funny hat or costume. All ticket stubs are placed in a container from which one "lucky" number is drawn. Hold the drawing early to ensure that the "lucky winner" is present!

**Donation Container:** This is a straightforward cash collection fundraiser. You may use old coffee cans or purchase plastic containers from your local dollar store, and cover them in bright colored paper or place a label on them. Some district and local unit presidents place a container on every table at meetings to collect funds for the foundation!



**Adult Spelling Bee:** A classic childhood competition could be a great fundraiser. Many TRTA members may enjoy a grown up spelling bee! You can either collect an entry fee to raise money, or charge an "admission fee" to the audience. You may even use the official spelling bee rules, such as asking for a definition of a word and using it in a sentence!([www.spellingbee.com/contest-rules](http://www.spellingbee.com/contest-rules)). You can use easier words for the first few rounds, and use more difficult words as the bee progresses. For ideas on what words to use in your competition and study guides, visit *Spell It!* at [www.myspellit.com](http://www.myspellit.com).



**Craft Fair/Bake Sale:** Craft fairs and bake sales are common fundraising techniques that call for your members to create an item or bake a delicious goodie. The proceeds earned from selling wares and snacks could then be donated to the Foundation.

**Grab Bag:** Have members donate inexpensive items, anything from used books to gag items. Place each item in a paper bag and seal all the bags. No feeling or shaking of bags is allowed! Decide what to charge per bag—a few dollars is appropriate. Supporters pay the fee and then choose a bag. They won't know whether they're getting a real treasure like a great cookbook, or a silly item like a rubber ducky. That's part of the fun! You can even include scratch-off lottery tickets to make the buying more competitive and fun!

**Bake-less Bake Sale:** The bake-less bake sale is exactly what it sounds like! Other organizations have used the following terminology to promote their bake-less bake sale: "You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies. You do NOT have to find the recipe. You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients. You do NOT have to cook. You do NOT have to wash dishes. You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen. You can write a check for \$10.00 to the *Texas Retired Teachers Foundation* and stay home and enjoy doing something yourself or with your family instead!"

*More ideas featured on [www.trtf.org](http://www.trtf.org) under Resources.*

## Training for “A Helping Hand”!

### “A Helping Hand” Training Session Fall Schedule:

Monday, October 1, 2012 1:00 p.m.

**Please RSVP** to Cindee Sharp at [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org).



Are you a **new** local unit Foundation Representative, District Foundation Liaison or District President? Then you should participate in a training webinar and conference call about how to operate the “A Helping Hand” program in your area! So far, we have not received any RSVPs for the training. If you wish to participate, please contact us at [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org) (subject line: Helping Hand Training) no later than September 28 (for the October 1 session). You will receive conference call and webinar details and links via email a few days prior to the training.

## TRTF Gives \$4000 in Grants from “A Helping Hand” Since August

**By Beth Unite**



A pipe bursts and floods a house. A tree limb falls on a parked car. Unexpected medical emergencies and unfortunate circumstances such as these happen to all of us, but the financial burden can be more than some can handle. At times like these, it’s good to know that there are friends in the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) to lend a hand.

The “A Helping Hand” program continues to touch the lives of retirees in need. In August and September alone, the Foundation awarded **over \$4,000.00** to help those requiring

emergency assistance! Four applications were approved by the Helping Hand committee, providing aid to TRS annuitants across the country.

One TRTA member living in Missouri received help with the cost of dentures and tooth extractions after experiencing the deterioration of her teeth due to underlying medical issues. Another applicant in the Corpus Christi area experienced extensive fire damage to her garage when her neighbor’s house burned down. Due to your generous donations, the Foundation was able to pay for her garage roof repair. The other two applicants needed help getting back on their feet after facing unexpected car repairs and medical bills.

The outpouring of gratitude expressed by these individuals is tremendous. The sheer appreciation of any dollar amount received is heartwarming. Your contributions are well spent as more and more individuals, friends, and past colleagues are given the help they need to get through a difficult and trying time.

Please keep the “A Helping Hand” program in mind this fall as we celebrate Foundation month in November. As we approach the holiday season, there is no more rewarding gift than to know that your contributions truly make a difference in the lives of those in need.



## Generous Donations Made by Districts and Local Units

Numerous districts and local units have offered generous donations to the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation in honor or in memory of fellow retirees, loved ones and community leaders. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of you for giving not just your monetary gifts but also the time as you have dedicated to sharing the Foundation's vision with others.

**Thank you for donating to important causes that positively impact public education retirees across the great state of Texas.**

The following list includes donations made by local units and districts between August 27, 2012 and September 25, 2012:

**District VIII** donated \$15 in honor of TRTA 1st Vice-President Francis Plemmons and TRS Director of Governmental Relations Ray Spivey. **Grimes County RTA** donated \$10 in memory of Beverly Kitchen. **San Marcos ART** donated \$25 in honor of Wayne King. **Panola County RTA** donated \$25 in honor of Dr. Wayne Berryman and the Honorable Chris Paddie. **New Braunfels RTA** donated \$250. **District 13** donated \$217.07. **Austin State Supported Living Center** donated \$60 in memory of Bob Pearson. **Harlandale So. Bexar County ERA** donated \$10 in honor of Francis Plemmons. **Northeast Harris County REA** donated \$15 in memory of Jeanne Britt, Charlotte Renfroe, and Ken Whitney. **Nacogdoches County RTA** donated \$25 in memory of Jackie Woods. **Panola County RTA** donated \$40 in honor of in memory of William Tatum and Florine Gipson. **Tri-County RTA** donated \$75 in memory of Jose Gonzalez, Aurora Ramirez, and Clara Utley. **TRTA** donated \$100 in memory of Jackie Woods.

## *Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: The Texas Public Education Legacy*

In April, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation shared its first multi-media creation promoting the Texas public education legacy! As of today, our video has nearly **3,200 views!** We would love to see that number grow to 32,000!



You may have read that funds designated for this program will be used to create materials supporting the Teacher Retirement System of Texas defined benefit plan and promoting a positive image of public education retirees in the state of Texas. TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee spoke more about the vision for the campaign and shared our moving 13 minute video during the 59th Annual TRTA Convention. The video may be viewed here: [www.trta.org/legacy](http://www.trta.org/legacy).

**Please share this video with fellow retirees, current active educators and school personnel, your legislators and friends.** It is our hope that this video and its message will resonate with all residents of Texas, motivating them to appreciate the individuals who have dedicated their lives to the noble endeavor of public education. Thank you for supporting this important cause!

**Help us share the TRTF Legacy video**  
**"Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: The Texas Public Education Legacy."**  
[www.trta.org/legacy](http://www.trta.org/legacy)

# November is Foundation Month!

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation  
and You . . .



Helping educators of the

**PAST**

(through "A Helping Hand" emergency assistance grants)



**PRESENT**

(through Classroom Assistance grants for public teachers)

& **FUTURE**

(through Student Scholarships).

**When we come together, we can help each other!**

Designate your fall meeting for increasing awareness of the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. Contact us to learn more on how your local unit or district may participate.

1-800-880-1650 x102 ▪ [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org) ▪ [www.trtf.org](http://www.trtf.org)

