

The TRTF Ledger



Vol. V,
Issue 11

November 30, 2013

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 November issue of *The Ledger*.

“A Helping Hand” Committee Awards Two Grants. See page 3.

Local Units Make Generous Contributions. See 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 beth@trta.org

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Where can I find “Talking Points” about TRTF’s charitable programs & more to share at local unit meetings?

Please send an email to Beth Unite at beth@trta.org or contact her at 1.800.880.1650 X 102 to request a copy.

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Foundation Month is Coming to an End!

November is almost over, but the season of giving is just beginning! Already TRTF has received an astounding **\$76,000** in donations in honor of our fifth annual **Foundation Month**. In 2012, TRTF raised \$74,000 to fund our three charitable programs: student scholarships, classroom assistance grants, and “A Helping Hand” and our educational program, The Legacy Campaign. **We are hoping to raise \$100,000 through this year’s campaign by December 31!**

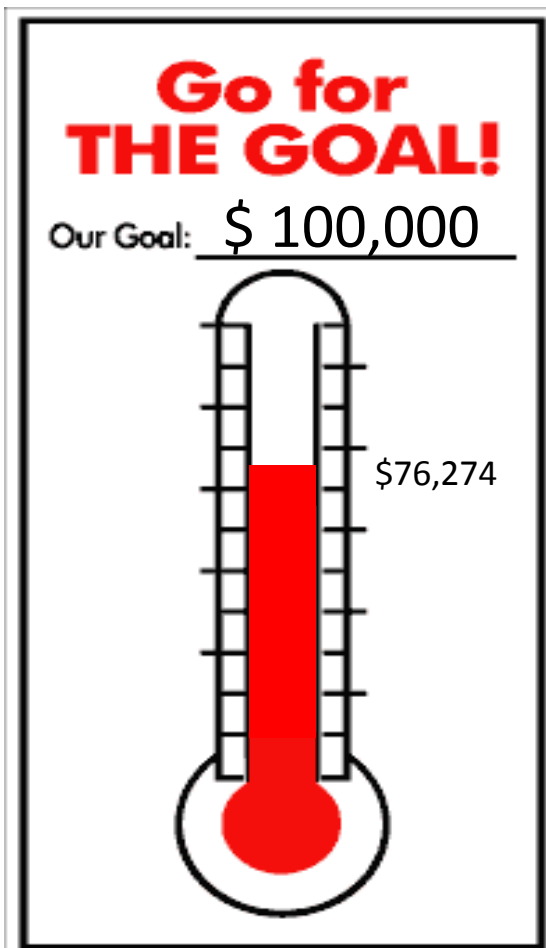
If you did not get a chance to discuss TRTF at your November meeting, we are asking all local units to dedicate time during their December meetings to discuss the Foundation’s goals and accomplishments. TRTA is encouraging units to ask its members for donations to the Foundation and to make information available to them about our wonderful organization.

Already had your meeting? LET US KNOW ABOUT IT! 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 mailed an association-wide appeal letter at the end of October. We received a tremendous amount of support from the membership last year. In 2012, the increased awareness and donations allowed us to continue the “A Helping Hand” program. Through “A Helping Hand,” TRTF has provided nearly \$48,000 in grants to 53 individuals. Read more about our recent grants on page 3!

Our goals for 2013-2014 include providing 15 \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors and current college students majoring in education. TRTF will also continue its Classroom Assistance Grant program, offering 15 \$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 will be Thursday, March 13, 2014.

In 2013, we also hope to provide at least \$15,000 in grants from our emergency assistance program, “A Helping Hand.” Also, we will continue producing resources for retirees who want to protect their financial security through our Legacy Campaign. In August, a second Legacy video was produced entitled, “Preserving the Legacy: Actives and Retirees Working Together.” Each district and local unit president received a copy of the video to be used to educate members, active teachers and the community on the defined benefit plan and the value of being a TRS member. To view the video, please visit the TRTF website at www.trtf.org.



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TRTF Continues to Help Our Own through "A Helping Hand"

This spring, TRTF witnessed the overwhelming support from TRTA members when over \$41,000 was raised to assist those affected by the fertilizer plant explosion in West, TX. Due to your generous contributions, the Foundation responded quickly to West TRTA members and awarded grants to retirees and active school personnel that lost their homes.



Each day, we are receiving calls from retirees that are in critical need and unable to pay medical and utility bills, food and shelter expenses. In 2010, the "A Helping Hand" program was created to assist retirees experiencing a short-term financial hardship. On Tuesday, the "A Helping Hand" committee voted to award grants to two retirees who were unable to pay their mortgage payments due to unexpected illnesses and car repairs. Your charitable gifts gave these individuals the help needed to regain their financial losses. Since the inception of the program, \$48,000 in grants have been awarded to 53 individuals.

If you know of someone in need, please contact Beth Unite at the TRTF office at 1.800.880.1650 X102 or by emailing her at beth@trta.org. Anyone that is eligible to receive a TRS annuity may apply. All applications remain confidential and are accepted year round.

A Special Thanks to Bob Richards and John Krodel

TRTF greatly thanks Bob Richards and John Krodel for their many years of service as trustees. Since 2001 Mr. Richards served as trustee and assisted with the implementation of the charitable programs created to help educators of the past, present and future. Mr. Krodel served as trustee for four years and was a member of the "A Helping Hand" committee where he was judicious in awarding grants to retirees in need.

Due to the valuable input of both of these trustees, the Foundation has succeeded in enhancing the quality of life of retirees and active school employees. Their valuable contributions will not be forgotten.

Also, the TRTF Board of Trustees welcomes our newest members, Martha Kallus and Jamie Larson. Their willingness to serve is much appreciated. Mrs. Kallus and Mr. Larson will be featured in our next issue.

Did You Know?

The Foundation is now able to accept donations by credit card. If you are interested in using your credit card to make a contribution, please call the TRTA office at 1.800.880.1650 and someone can assist you.

Funds may be designated to a specific program.



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 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 October 31, 2013 and November 27, 2013:

District 11 donated \$25 in honor of Don Vardeman. District 19 donated \$60. Camp County Retired School Personnel donated \$100 and \$25 in memory of Pam Harrel. Irving Retired School Personnel Association donated \$233. Everman Area Retired School Employees Association donated \$90 in memory of Evangeline Brewer. Hood County Retired School Personnel Association donated \$160. Abilene RTA donated \$110. North Montgomery County RTA donated \$100. **Midland Association of Retired School Personnel donated \$600 in honor of Ann Andrews, including a \$45 donation to Helping Hands and a \$5 donation to Classroom Assistance Grants.** Richardson Retired School Personnel donated \$500 to Helping Hands. Menard-Mason-Kimble RTA donated \$260. Kendall County RTA donated \$325. Hardin County RTA donated \$100 in memory of 2012-2013 deceased members. Williamson County RTA donated \$35. Denton Area Retired School Personnel Association donated \$100. HEB Retired School Employees donated \$582. District 1 donated \$250 in honor of Senator Juan Hinojosa, Senator Judith Zafirini, Representatives Eddie Lucio, Rene Oliveira, Oscar Longoria, Terry Canales, R.D. Guerra, Ryan Guillen, Armando Martinez, Sergio Munoz, Tracy King, and Richard Raymond. Perryton Area Retired School Personnel Association donated \$100. Randolph Area Retired Educators donated \$100. Richardson Retired School Personnel donated \$1,000. San Patricio Retired School Personnel donated \$65. La Porte School Employees Association donated \$190 to the Legacy Campaign in memory of Arthur Roscoe, Virginia Carey and Karen Patrick. Katy Area Retired Educators donated \$100. Austin RTA donated \$100. Monahans Area Retired School Personnel donated \$50. Polk County RTA donated \$100. Lamar-Delta RTA donated \$344 in honor of Tim Lee. Live Oak County RTA donated \$100. Parker County Retired Teachers donated \$1,296. District 10 donated \$100 to Helping Hands and \$100 to the Legacy Campaign. Kaufman County Retired School Personnel donated \$161 to Helping Hands. Western Bowie County RTA donated \$148. Nacogdoches RTA donated \$300, including \$50 donated in honor of Bill Barnes and Gloria Bethany. Fort Bend Retired Educators donated \$250 to Student Scholarships in memory of their deceased members. Plano RTA donated \$1,291.20. Austin County Retired Teachers donated \$100. White Settlement Retired School Employees Association donated \$53. Allen Retired Educators Association donated \$878. Comanche County RTA donated \$70. Eastern Cass County School Retirees Association donated \$167. San Marcos Association of Retired Teachers donated \$50. South Montgomery Area Retired Teachers donated \$100. Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers donated \$178.09. Fort Bend County RTA donated \$100. El Paso Lower Valley RTA donated \$350. Pasadena Area Retired School Employees donated \$200 to Helping Hands. Brown County RTA donated \$100. Brazoria County RTA donated \$175 to Helping Hands in memory of Martha Bender, Pearl Bozman, Sylvia Hattaway, Phyllis Kittinger, Sara Jo Lott, Ruby Maynard, and Jane Patterson. Runnels County donated \$25. Houston Association of Retired Teachers donated \$630. West Grayson Retired School Personnel Association donated \$206.

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 ▪ beth@trta.org ▪ www.trtf.org

