



Texas Retired Teachers Foundation

313 E. 12th St., Ste. 220, Austin, TX 78701
512.476.1622 ▪ 800-880-1650 ▪ help@trtf.org

TRTF Talking Points: Fall 2020

Initiatives and Goals: What our Foundation Achieves!

- I. Did you know TRTF has given out more than \$585,000 to educators across Texas since 2008? Please help us make a difference in the lives of educators by supporting Foundation Month!
 - a. November 2020 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, \$107,000 in donations were received from this fundraising effort!
 - e. This year, TRTF hopes to reach \$100,000 in donations again.
 - f. The Foundation's 2020-2021 goals:
 - i. TRTF will provide 25 \$750 Beginning Teacher Scholarships to recent college graduates who will be teaching for the first time in the fall of 2021. This is an increase from the 20 scholarships awarded in 2020. TRTF has awarded more than \$108,000 in scholarship funds since 2008.
 - ii. TRTF will provide 40 \$500 Classroom Assistance Grants to public school teachers in Texas in 2021. This is an increase from the 30 grants awarded in 2020. Since 2008, TRTF has awarded more than \$108,000 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 14, 2020.
 - iv. TRTF will provide \$27,000 in grants to retirees in critical need through the "A Helping Hand" program in 2021. TRTF has provided more than \$204,800 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. In April 2020, TRTF raised over \$54,000 to assist Texas public school personnel affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and distributed 26 grants in aid.
 - vi. TRTF will continue to raise funds for the Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund, which began in 2016.
 1. 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.

Donations: Making it Work!

- II. Donations are needed to support our many charitable programs: Beginning Teacher Scholarships, Classroom Assistance Grants, "A Helping Hand," 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/donate).
 - c. Members may call the TRTF office in Austin at 1.800.880.1650 and speak with Sarah Richardson 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.

Why we need our Local Unit Representatives and District Liaisons

- III. 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 Sarah Richardson 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).

TRTF's Programs

- IV. "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 \$204,800 in grants to 196 retirees.
 - b. Applications can be requested by contacting the TRTF office at 1.800.880.1650 or sending an email to sarah@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 also 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>

V. *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 referred by a member of TRTA. The scholarship assists recipients with paying for certification tests and materials for their very first classroom. The Foundation will award 25 \$750 scholarships in 2021.
- b. Applications will be available on the TRTF website by September 14, 2020 and are due February 25, 2021.

VI. *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 40 \$500 classroom assistance grants to public school teachers in Texas in 2021.
- b. Applications will be available on the TRTF website by September 14, 2020 and are due February 25, 2021.



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TRTF Introduces New Tutor Initiative Program in 2020!

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is launching a new endeavor that benefits Texas public education students, teachers, and retirees alike. TRTF's mission has been to help educators of the past, present and future through grants and scholarships. **Now, we want to reach every Texas child!**

TRTF's dream and goal is to provide access to reduced cost tutoring services to the 5.9 million public school students in Texas.

Many students, teachers, and retirees are struggling due to the abrupt changes made to our public education system because of the Covid-19 pandemic. These circumstances prompted TRTF to launch a program that connects schools and parents to retirees across the state who will tutor students in an online setting on an hourly basis.

TRTF's tutoring service will employ retired and certified Texas public school teachers who have the experience, time, and dependability needed to engage successfully with students of all ages and educational needs. Retirees can earn between \$30-\$40 per hour without TRS penalty concerns.

Children will receive the educational support they need as they adapt to virtual learning environments that are quickly becoming the primary mode of education for most Texas families. Their parents will have access to reduced cost, reliable tutoring services that focus on empowering the student to succeed, not on profits!

Public school teachers who are already overloaded with the abrupt changes required for our education system will have a valuable and trusted resource for their students when additional help is needed outside of their daily classroom setting. Our program will help bolster students' learning and support public school teachers, not take away from our much-needed public education system.

Please consider joining our program as a tutor by contacting us at 1.800.880.1650 or help@trtf.org. TRTF is also striving to raise donations for the program to help alleviate the cost of tutoring services for families in need. Your donation in any amount is appreciated. Please visit www.trtf.org/donate or call us at the number listed above to make a tax-deductible contribution.