



Texas Retired Teachers Foundation

313 E. 12th Street, Suite 220, Austin, TX 78701
512.476.1622 ▪ 1.800.880.1650 ▪ help@trtf.org

TRTF Talking Points

(For use at district and local chapter meetings; choose the points that apply most to your chapter or those that can be shared in the time allotted)

Initiatives and Goals: What our Foundation Achieves!

- I. Did you know TRTF has given out more than \$850,000 to educators across Texas since 2008? Please help us make a difference in the lives of educators by supporting Foundation Month!
 - a. November 2022 has been designated by the TRTA Board of Directors as Foundation Month.
 - b. TRTF is asking all TRTA local chapters 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, \$105,000 in donations were received from this fundraising effort!
 - e. This year, TRTF hopes to reach and pass that amount!
 - f. The Foundation's 2022-2023 goals:
 - i. TRTF will provide 20 \$750 Beginning Teacher Scholarships to college seniors and first-year educators to reimburse the applicant for certification tests and classroom materials. TRTF has awarded \$138,750 in scholarship funds since 2008.
 - ii. TRTF will provide 30 \$750 Classroom Assistance Grants to public school teachers in Texas in 2023. Since 2008, TRTF has awarded \$154,500 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 16, 2022.
 - iv. TRTF will provide \$30,000 in grants to retirees in critical need through the "A Helping Hand" program in 2023. TRTF has provided more than \$215,000 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. In the Spring of 2021, TRTF raised over \$165,000 to assist retired Texas school personnel who were negatively affected by winter storm Uri that struck Texas in February and distributed 663 Disaster Relief 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,” Disaster Relief, TRTF Tutor Program, and the Lehr-Pritchard Endowment 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).

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 Chapter Representatives and District Liaisons

- III. It is important that every local chapter 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 \$215,00 in grants to 215 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 are NOT posted online.
- c. Local chapter 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 pay for medical and dental bills, home and auto repair, groceries, prescriptions, hearing aids, and refrigerators.
- 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:

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 college seniors and first-year educators to reimburse the applicant for certification tests and classroom materials. The Foundation will award 20 \$750 scholarships in 2023.
- b. Applications will be available on the TRTF website by September 16, 2022 and are due January 27, 2023.

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 30 \$750 classroom assistance grants to public school teachers in Texas in 2023.
- b. Applications will be available on the TRTF website by September 16, 2022, and are due January 27, 2023.