

The TRTF Ledger



Vol. II,
Issue 12

December 10, 2010

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

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

Welcome to the December 2010 issue of *The Ledger*.

See our first report on the success of Foundation Month!

TRTF Student Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant applications are now ready for distribution!

We hope all of you have a safe and happy holiday!



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



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The next meeting of the TRTF Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Drury Inn, Austin, Texas. The Drury Inn is located at 6711 IH 35 North. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at approximately 2:00 p.m.



Second Annual Foundation Month A Success!

Once again, TRTA members have gone out of their way to ensure that the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation had a successful fundraising month to support its three charitable programs: the newly launched “A Helping Hand,” Classroom Assistance Grants, and Student Scholarships.

Since November 1st, \$45,000 in individual donations and \$9000 in local unit and district donations have been made to the Foundation. As a result of this benevolence and increased awareness, TRTF has been able to award 4 grants from the newly launched “A Helping Hand” program (5 since the statewide launch of the program in October)!

Because of the support you have shown, both monetarily and by promoting “A Helping Hand” in your area, TRTF is doing what we have set out to do: help others! In the past 2 months, the Foundation has provided nearly \$4000 in grants for individuals needing help with medical and dental bills, as well as utility bills. One individual in Houston was able to purchase space heaters for her home and also groceries.

For some of us, it is hard to imagine going without heat in our home during the fall and winter months, or not being able to afford groceries. For others, this is an unfortunate reality. Please be on the lookout for individuals in your local unit who you believe could use a helping hand during this sometimes harsh season.

A big **Thank You** for being the voice of the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation and for making Foundation month so successful. The Foundation will provide updated information about donation totals in the January *Ledger*.



Donating to TRTF

If you or someone you know would like to make a donation to the Foundation, you may do so by mailing your gift to the **Texas Retired Teachers Foundation, 313 E. 12th Street, Ste. 200, Austin, TX 78701**. Donations may be designated for any of our three charitable programs: “A Helping Hand,” Classroom Assistance Grants, or Student Scholarships. Donations may also be made in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Donations may be made **online** using a service called JustGive.org. The link for donating to TRTF is: <https://www.justgive.org/basket?acton=donate&ein=74-2958842>. Please bear in mind that 3% of all donations made through this service go towards JustGive.org. However, TRTF is not charged unless someone makes a donation to us. Other online services charge a fee even when the service is not used, and this service has proven to be the most cost-effective method for our non-profit.



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2011-2012 TRTF Student Scholarships & Classroom Assistance Grants!

Applications are Ready!

The 2011-2012 TRTF Student Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant applications are ready! **Please note** that applications for both programs have undergone significant changes since the 2010-2011 award year, and it is advised that all applicants download the newest applications.

For the 2011-2012 school year, **TRTF will award 10 \$500 student scholarships and 10 \$500 classroom assistance grants!**

All completed applications are due to TRTF by Thursday, March 17, 2010 at 5:00 pm. The names of the 2011-2012 scholarship and grant recipients will be announced at the 2011 Convention of the Texas Retired Teachers Association during the Foundation luncheon. The convention will be held in San Antonio on April 12, 13, and 14. Winners do not need to be present and will be notified by telephone and/or by e-mail after the convention.

As a Foundation liaison or representative, your help informing TRTA members about the availability of the new scholarship and grant applications is needed! Please announce that the new applications are available at your next local unit meeting. Feel free to direct individuals to the TRTF website or to email/mail applications to interested parties.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Students who are relatives of a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA), and who are pursuing an

undergraduate or masters degree in education at a Texas university or college are eligible to apply for the TRTF Student Scholarship. Transcripts must be included with each application. Recipients must provide proof of enrollment before funds will be awarded.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Classroom Assistance Grants are awarded to public school teachers who on a daily basis demonstrate commitment to public education and Texas children through the



creation of programs, events, or other learning platforms. Teachers may apply as individuals or as a team, must be public school teachers in the state of Texas for the 2011-2012 school year, and must have handwritten approval of the project by the school principal.

Additional information found on page 5



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WOW! 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 of Foundation Month. 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 can positively impact public education retirees across the great state of Texas.**



The following list includes donations made by local units and districts between November 16, 2010 and December 10, 2010.

Andrews RSEA raised \$25 in memory of Lavada Hale. **Austin County RTA** raised \$50. **Monahans RSP** donated \$50. **Irving RSPA** donated \$100 for "A Helping Hand." **Ft. Bend County RTA** donated \$100 for "A Helping Hand." **Big Spring Howard County RTA** donated \$100 for student scholarships. **Red River RSE** donated \$100. **Pasadena RSE** donated \$100 for "A Helping Hand." **West Grayson County RTA** donated \$116. **Midland RSP** donated \$118. **San Marcos ART** donated \$25 in honor of Ellen Grimm, and \$155 for Foundation Month. **Hood County RSPA** donated \$173. **Frisco RSP** donated \$192. **Parker County RTA** donated \$274.97. **Williamson County RTA** donated \$5. **San Patricio County RSP** donated \$10 in honor of Judith Zaffirini and Ellen Reisinger. **Angelina RTSPA** donated \$15 in honor of Francis Plemmons. **Richardson RSP** donated \$423, designating \$73 for classroom assistance grants, \$50 for scholarships, and \$300 for "A Helping Hand." **Corpus Christi ARTA** donated \$225, \$25 of which honored police chief Troy Riggs. **Henderson County RTA** donated \$50. **Rockwall RTA** donated \$100. **Palo Pinto RTA** donated \$150. **Hamilton AREA** donated \$165. **FB Harris REA** donated \$250. **Comanche RTA** donated \$260. **Victoria RTA** donated \$90 using the Bake-less Bake Sale fundraising technique. **Nacogdoches County RTA** donated \$25 in honor of Herbert Norris. **South Dallas County RTA** donated \$148. **Mesquite ARSE** donated \$275, designating \$100 for "A Helping Hand" and \$175 for student scholarships. **Live Oak RTA** donated \$100. **Garland RSP** donated \$100. **Leon County RTA** donated \$116 for "A Helping Hand." **Montgomery ARSP** donated \$166 for "A Helping Hand." **Karnes County RTA** donated \$290 for "A Helping Hand" in the spirit of the Thanksgiving season. **Crosby RTA** donated \$100 for "A Helping Hand" in honor of Sherry LaFear for her service as President of CARTA. **Houston Harris County RTA** donated \$100. **Palm Valley RTA** donated \$182. **Ysleta RSEA** donated \$381. **Mainland RTA** donated \$50 for "A Helping Hand." **District 2** donated \$80 honoring Dora Scott-Nichols, Leroy DeHaven, and Tom Gurren. **Garland RSP** donated \$75. **Brown County RTA** donated \$100. **Smith County RTA** donated \$164. **North San Antonio RTA** donated \$250 for "A Helping Hand." **Allen REA** donated \$515 for "A Helping Hand." **Odessa RTSPA** donated \$55.53 for "A Helping Hand."



In the past 2 months, the Foundation has provided nearly \$4000 in grants from "A Helping Hand."

Tips and tidbits page!



How Do I Get A Scholarship or Grant Application?

1. Download one from the website!

Go to:

<http://www.trtf.org/index.cfm/scholarships-grants/>

Only PDF versions of the applications are available

2. Send an email to info@trtf.org!

Use one of the following subject lines: Scholarship or Grant

3. Call **1-800-880-1650 x106**

(or ask for Cindee Sharp)!

She will be happy to mail a hard copy of the application to you

What are the Foundation's 2011 TRTA Convention Plans?

TRTF is looking forward to April 2011 when the 58th Annual Texas Retired Teachers Association Convention takes place in San Antonio. The **Foundation luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at 12 pm. Tickets should be purchased in advance. To pre-register for the luncheon, see the upcoming issue of *The Voice* arriving in your mailbox this month! We look forward to seeing you there!

This year, the Foundation once again will be hosting a **photo booth** in the exhibition hall. For a suggested donation of \$15, guests will receive a 5 x 7 photograph commemorating their experience in San Antonio. Individuals wishing to participate should stop by the Foundation's exhibitor booth during the convention and schedule a time to have his or her picture taken. Please spread the word about this exciting opportunity by telling your fellow TRTA members. Please note that TRTF will be accepting cash and check only as forms of payment for the photos. Fun, fiesta-themed attire will be available!

The Foundation will also be hosting a **training session** during this year's Convention. It is recommended that local unit Foundation Representatives and District Foundation Liaisons attending the convention make an effort to attend the session. The "A Helping Hand" program will be covered, as well as information about the role of representatives and liaisons. We will also discuss tips about how to make your role easier. Details about the date and time of the session will be made available soon!

Where can I find "Talking Points" to share about the Foundation at my local unit meetings?

Please send an email to Cindee Sharp at info@trtf.org or contact her at 1-800-880-1650 x 106 to request a copy.

NOTE: **Talking points have been updated as of September 2010.** They are also available in the **Training Guide**. The most updated version of the Training Guide is now available online through www.trtf.org on the Resources page.



The first day of winter begins on December 21, 2010!

If you have questions about **"A Helping Hand,"** such as how to apply or assist a member with the application process, please send an email to help@trtf.org or call Cindee at 512-476-1622.



Happy
HOLIDAYS



FROM THE
TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS
FOUNDATION
TO YOU