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FLITE 2006 Annual Report

I am pleased to share FLITE's first Annual Report with our many friends and supporters. This Report summarizes FLITE's activities from its founding on January 5, 2006 through the end of our first fiscal year, June 30, 2006. I am confident you will agree that it has been a momentous six months, filled with solid achievements and a sound basis for confidence in FLITE's ability to provide continuing and enduring support for the public school children of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District.

I cannot adequately express my gratitude to all of those who have helped in FLITE's launch. The enthusiastic and generous response of our Trustees, Advisors, volunteers, and vendors is so very heartwarming. You are helping to make a major difference in the lives of children who really need you.

Mission

Throughout all of our activities we have attempted to keep our eyes set firmly on our Mission:

"to help to assure educational excellence for the public school children in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships and the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District by providing resources that will:

- *help students to take full advantage of the opportunities that the District offers*
- *provide for innovative and challenging programs in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District.*

As a priority, the Foundation will target its funding toward programs that reach groups and individual students who are unable to take full advantage of what the district offers. This may include preparatory and supplemental programs that help to assure that all children are able to participate fully in the offerings of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District."

We occasionally hear the question, "We already pay substantial school taxes, why doesn't the School District pay for these programs rather than FLITE paying for them?" The School District budget can only fund so many items; they can't fund everything. And new laws just passed by the State legislature will begin to force even more difficult budget choices on the School District. Furthermore, the complexities of the School Code require that when a School District provides certain services to its students, it may also be required to provide those same services to all private school students also. This would make it impractical to offer some services or programs.

In short: Some children in our area just can't take advantage of some of the District's excellent programs, due to economic issues, home situations, short or long term family crises. A large number of folks became aware of this situation and decided to try to make a difference in the lives of these children. FLITE was launched.

Organizational Progress

We successfully executed of a number of organizational tasks to give FLITE a strong foundation:

- Developed FLITE's Charter and By-laws
- Assembled a distinguished Board of Trustees
- Assembled a similarly distinguished Advisory Board of Directors
- Established six operating committees and our Executive Committee
- Established a set of operating policies
- Completed all of the necessary legal and tax-exemption filings
- Adopted our initial Strategic Plan
- Designed and produced our logo and website.

Initial Fund Raising

We needed start-up funds in order to set up our operations and allow us to invite and approve initial grant applications. Or first, narrowly targeted Founders Circle Campaign raised over \$60,000. Every member of the Board of Trustees contributed to this Campaign. If you would like to make a contribution to FLITE, please visit our website, www.FLITE-pa.org, for information. We are an approved 501c3 organization, and your contribution is tax-exempt.

First Grant Approved

Our Proposal Review and Evaluation Committee has been working with a variety of groups and individuals, helping to formulate grant proposals consistent with our Mission. At our May 18 Board of Trustees Meeting, we approved our first grant--- to the Homework Oasis at the Valley Forge Middle School (VFMS). The Homework Oasis, organized by VFMS guidance counselor Andrew Mullen, will provide homework help and tutoring support to 20 students, every Monday through Thursday, from 2:30 to 5:00 PM. VFMS teachers and counselors will work with the students, the VFMS PTO will provide a substantial snack, and FLITE will provide the bus transportation home for the students.

We were delighted to be able to approve this first grant request so early in FLITE's existence, and look forward to receiving several additional proposals currently in development. These are in such diverse areas as music lessons for children who might not otherwise be able to participate, tutoring help for additional groups of students, and pre-school literacy program support. We are always interested in receiving grant requests consistent with our Mission. Please go to our web site, www.FLITE-pa.org, for complete information on the grant application process.

Logo, Website, Newspapers, Mailings, Brochure, T/E TV

After preparing a Strategic Communications Plan, our Communications Committee quickly launched a broad range of activities. Our web site, www.FLITE-pa.org, was designed for us by Jonathan Hudson, CHS '90, founder of studio2f.com, a Philadelphia-based advertising and marketing agency. David Lloyd, also CHS '90, designed FLITE's logo. David is a Creative Director with Ogilvey & Mather in New York. We thank Jonathan and David for donating their superb creative work. We are also grateful to ANRO Printing, of Devon, for their generous help with our initial printing needs.

The Communications Committee succeeded in getting FLITE's story into broad local distribution:

- Several articles in the local newspapers
- Interviews on T/ETV on our local cable channel
- Distribution of our first full-color brochure in the School District's Insight newsletter, mailed to over 10,000 addresses
- Links to FLITE's website on many local-interest web sites

Alumni

We have taken some preliminary steps to establish contact with the almost 23,000 alumni of T/E High School and Conestoga High School. (The District high school from 1933 through 1955 was T/E High School; Conestoga High School's first graduating class was the Class of 1956.) We especially appreciate the kindness of the T/E High School Alumni Association for sharing their experiences in forming their Association. We are interested in hearing from anyone interested in helping to organize a Conestoga High School Alumni Association. Please contact our Alumni Coordinator, John Beatty, through the FLITE website, www.FLITE-pa.org.

Annual Meeting

FLITE's 2006 Annual Meeting is September 14, 2006, at 7:30 pm, in the T/E Education Services Center, 738 First Avenue, Berwyn.

In Conclusion

On behalf of my colleagues on the FLITE Board of Trustees and the FLITE Advisory Board of Directors, but especially on behalf of the children of the T/E School District, I thank you for helping in FLITE's successful launch.

Sincerely,

Tom Colman, FLITE Chair