

New T/E program

*By Henry Rome
News Editor*

A new educational foundation has been formed to address the needs of students in the Tredyfrin/Easttown School District. The Foundation for Learning in T/E (FLITE) was founded to help students obtain access to preschool, transportation home from extra-curricular activities, or tutoring, among other needs.

"We are helping kids that need help," said chair of FLITE's communications committee, Sandi Gorman.

FLITE, which officially announced its plans in late March, is made up of community members, and is independent of the district.

FLITE started when a group of area residents shared the belief that there needed to be a "real focus on getting a program that could really help bring access to everything in the school district for kids who can't take advantage of it currently," Gorman said.

Although the chairman of FLITE, Tom Colman, lauds the district's work, he said that there is still more to be done.

"The T/E School District does an outstanding job, and FLITE wants to help assure that it will have the resources to continue its excellent programs. At the same time, we want to help assure that this level of excellence is available to all public school children in the Tredyfrin/Easttown School District," Colman said in a press release.

Though the program just started, its first grant was approved at the end of May. FLITE will fund a program called "Homework Oasis" at Valley Forge Middle School, where tutoring will be provided to students. As with this program and all others, FLITE will not operate it, but will provide financial backing.

FLITE is a non-profit organization that seeks private donations to fund "innovative and creative programs" for T/E students, according to FLITE's website, www.flite-pa.org.

Programs similar to FLITE exist for the Radnor, Haverford, and Unionville-Chadds Ford school districts.

Gorman is optimistic about the future of FLITE.

"I hope it is a really bright future," Gorman said.