

FLITE's Colman is recognized as Citizen of the Year

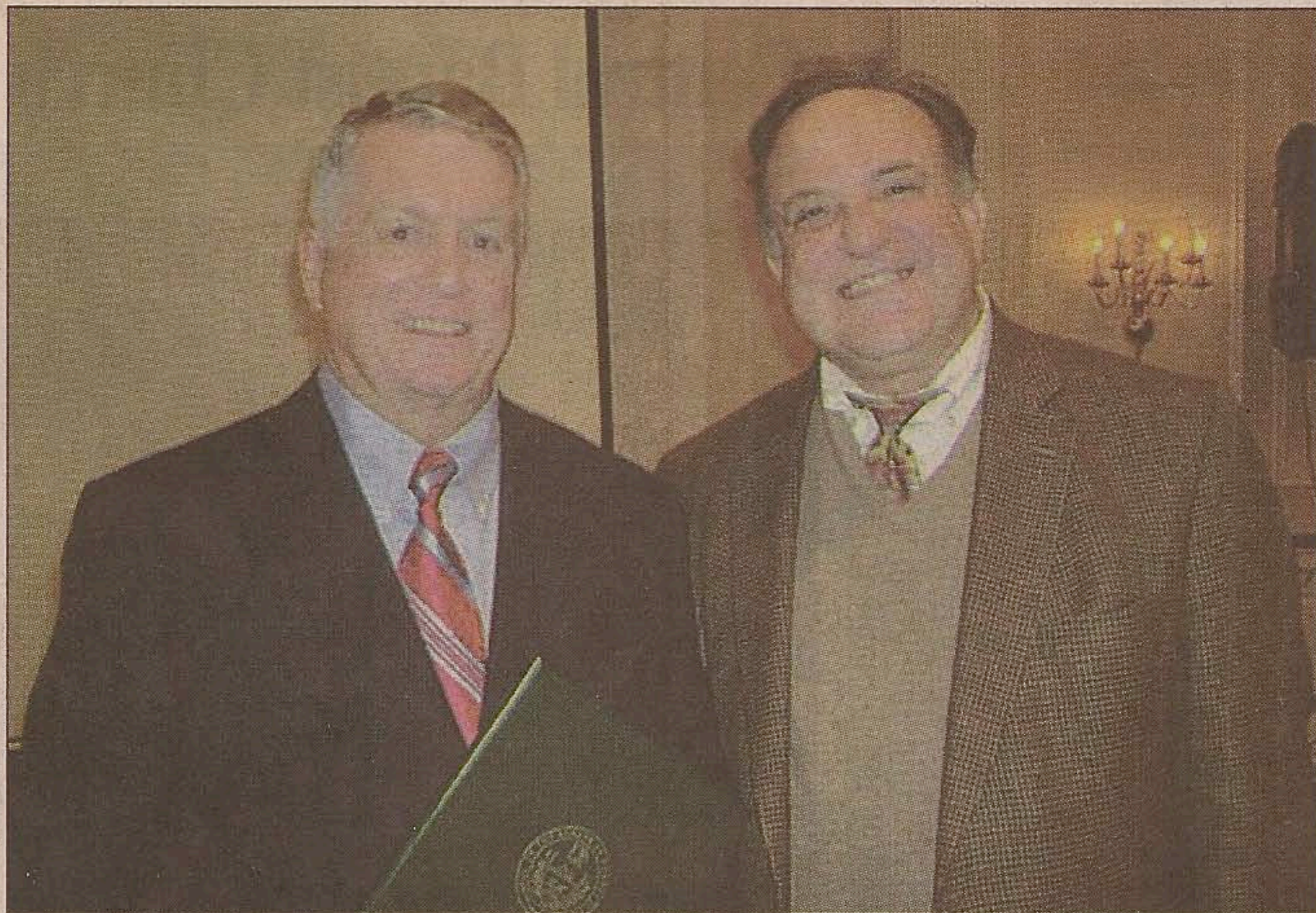
"We saw a problem and we decided to solve it!"

This is Tom Colman's explanation for the formation of FLITE (The Foundation for Learning in Tredyffrin/Easttown). Colman is the Chair of FLITE's Board of Trustees, and was named this week by the Paoli Business and Professional Association (PBPA) as its "Citizen of the Year."

FLITE is a non-profit education foundation, started two years ago to help local kids, with a special emphasis on students who are trying to cope with adverse circumstances. FLITE funds and provides programs that help T/E students reach their full potential. It cooperates with, but is independent of, the T/E School District, and uses tax-deductible donations as a means of funding the programs.

In his opening remarks at its annual awards banquet, PBPA Vice President George Vosburgh commented that, "Tom is one of those people who gets amazing things done. Everyone looks to Tom as the leader of FLITE. "This year FLITE continues to sponsor after-school tutoring programs in all five elementary schools and both middle schools, cooperates with a music group (TEMPO) to offer musical instruments to kids who can't afford to get them, and partners with a local private school to offer summer reading programs to students in the T/E Schools. A book program is being planned for this spring, so children who can't afford to get books, especially required summer reading books, can get them for free.

Chester County Commissioner, Carole Aichele, told the attendees "It is an extraordinary privilege to recognize Tom Colman for his many contributions to the Paoli community. Chester



Tom Colman, Chair of FLITE's Board of Trustees, is congratulated by State Sen. Andy Dinniman.

County is a county that cares about its kids and Tom Colman exemplifies that caring."

In awarding Colman a citation from the PA Senate, Senator Andy Dinniman said, "Elie Weisel, the author, stated that the two most delicious words in the English language are 'and yet.' Tom Colman understands this and has dedicated his work to improving our community. He understands that we can always make our community better, and we thank him for that."

In accepting his award, Colman announced a new partnership between FLITE and the Upper Main Line YMCA that will go a long way toward making pre-school a reality for many T/E children whose families might otherwise not be able to afford it. This new, need-based program will allow children from any qualified family in the Tredyffrin/Easttown area to attend pre-school at the

Upper Main Line Y, on a space-available basis, for as little as \$5 a week. This exciting partnership helps to advance FLITE's and UMLY's common missions of service to the community. Joe Tankle, UMLY's General Director/CEO was recognized by the PBPA at the event as "Business Person of the Year."

During his acceptance remarks, Colman also mentioned that FLITE is about to embark on its annual fall fundraising campaign, and offered the members of the PBPA the challenge of making donations that would be matched by FLITE Board members up to \$30,000. The help of the entire community is needed to sustain FLITE's programs. Anyone interested in making a donation to FLITE can get information at www.FLITE-pa.org, or send a check directly to FLITE, P.O. Box 806, Southeastern, PA 19399.