



Thorndale Resources for Educational
Empowerment (TREE) Foundation
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thorndale Community Launches TREE Foundation to Empower Education

The Thorndale community is planting seeds for the future of education with the official launch of the Thorndale Resources for Educational Empowerment (TREE) Foundation. This newly established nonprofit will provide lasting support for grants, scholarships, and recognition programs that benefit the students, teachers, staff, and administrators of Thorndale ISD.

Behind the scenes, a passionate board of directors has been hard at work shaping the Foundation's vision and preparing for the Founding Donor Campaign, which officially launches at the end of September. Families, friends, community members, and corporate partners are invited to join in this historic effort to create a foundation that will provide for generations to come.

"Our mission is to enhance and enrich educational opportunities, support staff innovation, and recognize excellence across our schools," said Heather Klotz "With TREE, we are building something that will continue to give back to Thorndale ISD for decades."

About TREE Foundation

The Thorndale Resources for Educational Empowerment (TREE) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering educational excellence across Thorndale ISD. Through grants, scholarships, and recognition programs, TREE partners with the community to ensure students, teachers, and staff have the resources they need to succeed.

The Foundation is partnered with Foundation Innovation LLC, a firm that specializes in developing foundations. Foundation Innovation has worked with many communities and school districts to establish foundations to benefit local public schools. "Following in the footsteps of public universities and colleges, K-12 school districts, and their local communities are establishing their own foundations to leverage private dollars and expand opportunities for their teachers and students" Suzi Pagel, Lead Strategist, Foundation Innovation.

A Logo Rooted in Meaning

The Foundation's new logo reflects both its mission and its heart. At its center stands a strong tree trunk, symbolizing the Foundation itself. From it grow four main branches — Teachers, Staff, Students, and Community — representing unity and shared commitment.

Among its branches are three powerful icons:

Heart – a symbol of compassion, care, and community investment

Book – representing knowledge, lifelong learning, and academic growth

Graduation Cap – honoring student success, achievement, and future goals

Together, the tree embodies empowerment, growth, and the people who make education possible in Thorndale.

Founding Board Members

The following community and business leaders have volunteered to serve on the TREE Board of Directors:

Heather Klotz – *President*

Zack Kleypas – *Thorndale ISD Superintendent*

Taylor Stokes – *Secretary*

Heather Merz – *Vice President of Development*

Wendy Kovar – *Vice President of Programs*

Lauren Rozell – *Vice President of Finance and Governance*

Tina Rowe – *Co – Vice President of Marketing and Events*

Kirsten Rowe – *Co – Vice President of Marketing and Events*

Ashley Cloud Mosley

Lynn Pounders

Jackie Oslick

Jeff Barron

Joey Quebe

Karen Shock

Patricia Rich

Brandy Jordan

Jenny Breithaupt

Jody Hilton

Julie Korenek

RJ Sandoval

Rebecca Peel

Ann Glenn

Kim Biar

To find out more about TREE or to inquire about our upcoming campaign, contact the Thorndale Resources for Educational Empowerment (TREE) Foundation located at 408 N Main St, Thorndale, TX 76577; by Phone (512) 426-7663 or by email at TREEfoundation.tx@gmail.com.