

As we turn the page to a new year, we as the Board of Directors of Treasures 4 Teachers would like to touch base with you, our valuable members. First and foremost, thank you for all your hard work and dedication for Arizona's students. We're honored to stand as a pillar of support for you. T4T is currently celebrating its 20th year! This exciting milestone is not only a celebration of our organization but also its founder, Barb Blalock.

T4T started as somewhat of a passion project in Barb's garage as a way to sustainability provide vital resources to Arizona's educators and students. Thanks to Barb's hard work, perseverance, and leadership, T4T has grown exponentially. Through two resource centers and an On Wheels program, we currently serve thousands of educators every year. Our members are truly the lifeblood of our organization, and T4T will continue to be here to serve you for years to come. However, Barb is getting ready to start a new, exciting adventure...being a Grammy!

Although it was no easy decision, Barb has decided to retire from her role as T4T's Executive Director and relocate to Atlanta to join her family in the raising of baby Quinn. Rest assured, Barb will still be creating an incredible impact- she has accepted a position at a similar organization in Atlanta where she will be able to fuel her drive to help others. Although she isn't in Arizona with us, Barb will continue to help support our Board and staff for the foreseeable future. Her voice and experience will remain important to our work during this transition.

An executive search firm specializing in nonprofit leadership sourcing will help us identify the next future leader of T4T, which we hope to announce in 3-6 months. In the meantime, Poonam Rathi will be serving as our Interim Executive Director. Poonam has worked her way up in T4T, starting as a volunteer and eventually becoming an Executive Assistant. Her extensive experience and familiarity with the organization make her an excellent fit for this transitional period. Rest assured, T4T is not going anywhere. While you may see changes in the next several months, our core mission remains the same. We have great community and corporate support, and the Board is laser-focused on ensuring that we continue to earn your trust as we guide the organization to its next fantastic chapter.

The most important thing is to know that though we may be sad Barb is leaving, it is also positive in that it allows T4T to build on Barb's legacy while utilizing the skills of a new leader. Our 20th Anniversary Gemstone Celebration is February 22, 2024. As part of that celebration, we will have an opportunity to honor and thank Barb for all she has done for teachers and students in the valley. We are thrilled that Barb will be joining us for this celebration and sincerely hope you will join us as well. Find more event information at <https://www.treasures4teachers.org/events/>

We look forward to entering a new era of Treasures 4 Teachers with you. Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

With Gratitude,

Treasures 4 Teachers Board of Directors