

SECU Foundation

2018 Report of the Chair



While traveling throughout North Carolina, have you noticed buildings bearing SECU's name, like the SECU Cancer Center in Asheville or the SECU Crystal Coast Hospice House in Newport, and wondered how they came to be? It's simple... these and many other community projects were made possible through your ongoing \$1 per month contributions to the SECU Foundation. From the far western mountains to the eastern shores of our state, you will find member-funded SECU Foundation projects related to education, housing, healthcare, and human services that are changing lives and strengthening communities. It gives me great pleasure to share some of the amazing projects that have been realized or funded this year through your support of the SECU Foundation.

The 2017-2018 fiscal year began with a focus on healthcare and human services. We celebrated the grand opening of the SECU Hospice Care Center of Yadkin. The \$1 million challenge grant from the SECU Foundation helped Surry County Hospice, Inc. move forward with the construction of the first ever inpatient hospice facility in Yadkin County, filling an unmet need for respite and hospice care services for families of patients who can no longer be cared for at home.

SECU Foundation also developed partnerships with two North Carolina non-profits that are helping expand innovative programs and specialized care services for children and adolescents in need. In Winston-Salem, your grant of \$1.5 million for the construction of the SECU Autism Clinic at ABC of NC will help meet a growing need for comprehensive autism care services for children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Thanks to the SECU Foundation grant of \$750,000 to Monarch, Inc., the SECU Youth Crisis Center in Charlotte opened its doors in February 2018. Your investment for the state's first facility-based mental health crisis center has strengthened the ability of Monarch to support the healthy recovery of young people experiencing mental health crisis symptoms.

Another healthcare initiative for adolescents included support for the East Carolina University's Motivating Adolescents with Technology to CHOOSE (MATCH) Wellness Program. The SECU Foundation MATCH Pilot provided a two-year \$200,000 grant for four schools in two northwestern counties to implement a school-based wellness program in their curriculum. The program teaches 7th grade students to make healthy nutrition and physical activity choices that will hopefully remain with them through their adult years resulting in healthier life habits, fewer medical problems and costs.

North Carolina public schools and students throughout the state continue to benefit from the SECU Foundation partnership with NC GreenPower to promote advancements in renewable energy. Because of your increased support for the Solar Schools program – a two-year \$150,000 challenge grant – up to ten schools who meet funding commitments will be awarded a solar array system and educational package. Fourteen schools have already realized benefits from the program through reduced energy bills while sparking student interest in the field of solar energy. The SECU Foundation also provided a \$400,000 grant to help build a dormitory for the Future Farmers of America Center in White Lake, N.C.



Access to a higher education was supported through the renewal of the nearly \$5 million in funding for the SECU Foundation "People Helping People®" scholarship programs, which have now helped over 6,000 students realize their educational goals and dreams. With the 2018 scholarship renewal, I'm excited to report that you have provided over \$61 million in scholarship funding for students since 2004!



The SECU Foundation continued support for the teachers, state employees, citizens, culture, and history of our state with grants and awards for many worthwhile projects and initiatives. Some of them included: funding for the Governor's Awards for Excellence, which honors the dedicated service and outstanding achievements of North Carolina's finest employees; a \$500,000 challenge grant for the North Carolina Freedom Park in Raleigh, N.C. which honors African-American leaders in the state who sought freedom and equality for all; and, the dedication of the multi-year \$3 million project—the SECU Memorial Walkway at the USS Battleship NORTH CAROLINA in Wilmington which provides new opportunities for teaching World War II history and honors the sacrifices and memories of the veterans of our state.



Housing also took center stage during the year as the SECU Foundation funded a \$2.7 million low-interest rate loan to help build Greenfield Place – an 80-unit apartment complex in Chapel Hill, N.C. The apartments provide greater access to affordable housing for Orange County citizens. Also, more Habitat for Humanity homes were funded by the SECU Foundation as the multi-year \$10 million "Mountains to the Sea Challenge" continued during 2017-2018.



From scholarship programs, to SECU Family Houses, homeless shelters, housing for teachers, seniors, veterans, and those with disabilities, to facilities addressing drug and alcohol addictions, and the many other projects – each are leaving an indelible footprint in our communities, and in the hearts and minds of those served. Since 2004, through the donation of the \$1 per month checking account fee, SECU members have made a collective financial commitment to the SECU Foundation of more than \$154 million to fund projects and initiatives statewide – a figure that should make you very proud! The next time your travels take you to Yadkinville, Charlotte, Raleigh, Wilmington, and many other sites, please take a moment to visit some of the places that you've helped make possible.



Thank you for your support and for making a difference in the lives of your fellow citizens!



Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Jolly



Cynthia M. Jolly
SECU Foundation Board Chair

