

# SECU Foundation

## 2021 Report of the Chair



Helping to build strong North Carolina communities is at the heart of the SECU Foundation's mission. Since its establishment in 2004, the Foundation has marked each year with incredible accomplishments that have far exceeded our initial goals. When the threat of a pandemic became a reality in early 2020, SECU Foundation focused its efforts on large-scale emergency disaster relief funding for worthy non-profits needing help to meet the escalating needs in North Carolina. Thanks to the monthly contributions provided by SECU members, we have stepped up our support of people and communities across the state. These targeted responses to the crisis embody the Foundation's mission in action. It gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the amazing initiatives you have helped support during the past fiscal year – initiatives that have brought hope, relief, and desperately needed help to our fellow North Carolinians in need.

Numerous organizations spanning all regions of the state received SECU Foundation disaster relief grants, which cumulatively totaled over \$4.7 million! We provided resources for home health agencies statewide to purchase much-needed masks, gowns, and gloves for healthcare staff, and thousands of homebound seniors received nutritious meals through Meals on Wheels North Carolina. A substantial contribution to the North Carolina Healing Communities Fund assisted non-profits which were disproportionately affected by COVID with smaller general-purpose grants to aid in their recovery as well. The Foundation also provided The Salvation Army of the Carolinas with another round of emergency funding during the holidays to help address mounting requests for food, shelter, and other essentials. Thanks to your support, SECU Foundation has responded to address critical needs in our communities.

Several new facilities funded in part by SECU Foundation held celebratory dedications during the year. Emotions were high when SECU Veterans Residence at the Veterans Life Center in Butner opened its doors to help at-risk, former military personnel in North Carolina successfully transition back into their communities. Carteret County Domestic Violence Program welcomed its new SAFE Shelter, giving victims and families of domestic violence greater access to emergency housing services and a multitude of programs. And, SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals christened the new Pine Wing to offer more patients and their loved ones a safe, affordable place to stay.

In 2021, we launched several new initiatives starting with the Foundation's announcement of a new capacity building pilot, the Rural Opportunity Grant. This pilot offers a valuable opportunity for select non-profits in the Northwest, Northeast, and Sandhills regions to work with community and education leaders on a key regional challenge. Two new ventures in education were spurred by issues that developed from the pandemic. The North Carolina Education Corps program is creating wonderful opportunities for North Carolinians to become involved in their community by serving as a tutor or mentor for students and school systems, helping address issues such as increased learning inequities. And a virtual on-the-job networking platform for education leaders, called the Distinguished Practitioners Network, is providing the forum for new and practicing principals to increase leadership capacity, collaborate with peers focused on the same issues, and apply new strategies to key concerns elevated by the pandemic. Additionally, the SECU Public Fellows Internship program support was expanded, providing exciting opportunities for up to twenty in-state undergraduates at fifteen North Carolina universities to be awarded a paid internship position at a local non-profit or public service organization.

Before the fiscal year ended in June, SECU Foundation helped My Kid's Club in Johnston County with a generous challenge grant to build a new permanent home for increased after-school programs and services for underserved youth. Mission Development Grants were also awarded to One Place in Onslow County and Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation in Wayne County for organizational capacity building. The Foundation rounded out the year with a grant in support of the courageous work at Healing Transitions in Wake County to expand the women's campus for individuals struggling with addiction.

Since its establishment seventeen years ago, SECU Foundation has become a critical component in helping State Employees' Credit Union further its commitment to social responsibility. Together with others who often share the Credit Union philosophy of "People Helping People®," SECU members via the Foundation work to advance innovative projects and provide valuable services in the areas of education, housing, healthcare, and human services. It is our belief that these efforts will lead to stronger North Carolina communities.

Thank you for your continued support of SECU Foundation and the profound difference you are making in North Carolina!

Sincerely,



Jo Anne Sanford  
SECU Foundation Board Chair

