

SECU Foundation

2022 Report of the Chair



I continue to be amazed by all that is accomplished year after year by our member-funded SECU Foundation, and this year is no different. Since 2004, we have grown and established the Foundation as a strong and valuable resource for so many non-profits – a sign of our longstanding commitment to helping others and the tangible difference being made in our communities and throughout North Carolina. Our efforts to promote local and community development in the areas of education, housing, healthcare, and human services have created wonderful collaborative opportunities to help tackle today’s economic and social challenges. I am so pleased to share a glimpse of the Foundation’s impactful work funded by your generous contributions. We are truly harnessing the power of stewardship and social responsibility in mighty ways!

On the education front, SECU Foundation responded to several requests, including our increased support for the Lead for North Carolina post-graduate fellowship program at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government. We were also excited to aid the NC Museum of Natural Sciences with funding to construct the SECU Dino Lab, home of the Dueling Dinosaur exhibit! In addition, UNCF (United Negro College Fund) received a grant to support its Emergency Student Aid program to ensure college students impacted by unexpected financial hardships remain on track to graduate.

Several other new initiatives were also unveiled, starting with Club Nova receiving funds to help build a larger mental health facility in Orange County, and UNC Health Foundation receiving support for a school-based telemedicine pilot to help address the mental and behavioral health needs of students in our state. Lincoln County Coalition Against Domestic Violence received funding to help them break ground on a new shelter, and another significant grant helped Roof Above create affordable, supportive housing for the homeless in Charlotte where 88 individuals now have a permanent place to call home!

SECU Foundation heard the call for help from Partners in Learning in Rowan County and provided funding to increase services for families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities through a new clinical services facility. A grant to Samaritan Colony in Richmond County helped them move forward with building the SECU Women’s Recovery Center, a residential substance abuse facility for underserved women, while the Institute of Emerging Issues at NC State University received a financial boost for the statewide expansion of its BAND-NC program to provide digital services and devices in areas with little or no access to internet services. Funding was also provided to Partners in Ministry in Scotland County for the SECU Community Education Center, Aces for Autism in Pitt County for the SECU Autism Clinic of Eastern North Carolina, and AMOREM in Watauga County for the AMOREM SECU Patient Care Unit of the High Country.

It has always been a privilege to travel throughout the state to attend celebratory events for initiatives that we helped fund. This past year, SECU Foundation board members, staff, and local SECU branch representatives took part in two dedications in Surry County. The SECU Campus of the Children's Center of Northwest North Carolina opened its doors with increased services for the prevention and treatment of child abuse, and the new SECU Center at the Shepherd's House now paves the way to serve more individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

All of these grants are making an incredible impact, including those given through our recently established Mission Development Grant (MDG) program. This past year, nine worthy non-profits each received a \$40,000 grant to assist with strengthening organizational capacity specific to their needs. These organizations provide life-saving resources to North Carolinians such as clothing programs for families, sheltering for the homeless, hospitality house services, music therapy programs for children on the Autism spectrum, and so much more. This grant program is creating a buzz throughout North Carolina because of its uniqueness - having a low dollar, high value reward that has the potential to secure millions of dollars in funding from other sources to help non-profits fulfill goals for expanded facilities and services.

I would like to take time to highlight two MDG recipients - organizations that demonstrate the importance of this capacity building program and its potential. After completing the program, Samaritan Colony received an additional \$1 million grant from the Foundation for the construction of the SECU Women's Center, a residential treatment facility to help women with chemical dependency. One Place in Onslow County received an additional \$2 million Foundation grant to build a new facility to expand child advocacy and mental health services, and also obtained an \$8 million commitment from the North Carolina Legislature for the project. The MDG program is a true differentiator... and certainly illustrates that a smaller grant can also have a very sizable impact on the community.

What an incredible year it has been for SECU Foundation and the numerous organizations that received Foundation funding, thanks to the support from you, our generous members. I hope that this letter conveys the importance of our work and the enormous commitment to our mission of helping others. SECU Foundation has established itself as a strong and valuable resource, one that continues to be a powerful force for communities in North Carolina. Over our 18-year history, members have contributed over \$235 million for initiatives statewide that are uplifting people and delivering hope in challenging times. I look forward to new and exciting ventures on the horizon, and I would like to thank you for your support and helping us make such a positive difference in our state!

Sincerely,

Bob Brinson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. Brinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

SECU Foundation Board Chair