## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Eden Village of Wilmington Receives \$500,000 Grant from SECU Foundation for Tiny Home Initiative

Funding provides permanent supportive housing complex and services for homeless population

WILMINGTON, N.C. – Eden Village of Wilmington recently received a \$500,000 grant from SECU Foundation to fund the first construction phase of a supportive housing complex and community center for the homeless in New Hanover County. The completed complex will consist of 31 fully furnished tiny homes located within a gated community. Residents will have access to supportive services, including critical health services, education programming, community meals, and fellowship opportunities through the community center – SECU Gathering Tree at Eden Village.



From left to right: SECU Foundation Board Member Jo Anne Sanford, SECU Foundation Grants Manager Caitlin Duke, and SECU Foundation Program Officer Grant Kennedy.

"This tiny home village model is an innovative and supportive housing solution for the chronically

homeless — it fills a critical housing gap for a vulnerable population in the region, and just as important, offers stability, hope, and a sense of belonging to a community within the structure of the larger community," said SECU Foundation Board Member Jo Anne Sanford. "We applaud the leadership and staff at Eden Village of Wilmington, and the work of many who dedicate their lives to helping people and uplifting our communities."

"Eden Village of Wilmington is immensely grateful for the generous \$500,000 grant from the SECU Foundation. This invaluable support will enable us to make a significant impact helping the homeless population in our community," said Eden Village of Wilmington President Tom Dalton. "With this funding, we plan to expand our services, provide safe and stable housing, and offer comprehensive support programs to help individuals transition out of homelessness and rebuild their lives."

## **About SECU and SECU Foundation**

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, and federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), SECU has been providing employees of the state of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for 86 years. SECU is the second largest credit union in the United States with \$50 billion in assets. It serves over 2.7 million members through 275 branch offices, over 1,100 ATMs, Member Services Support via phone, <a href="www.ncsecu.org">www.ncsecu.org</a>, and a Mobile App. The SECU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization funded by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high-impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare, and human services. Since 2004, <a href="SECU Foundation">SECU Foundation</a> has made a collective financial commitment of over \$258 million for initiatives to benefit North Carolinians statewide.