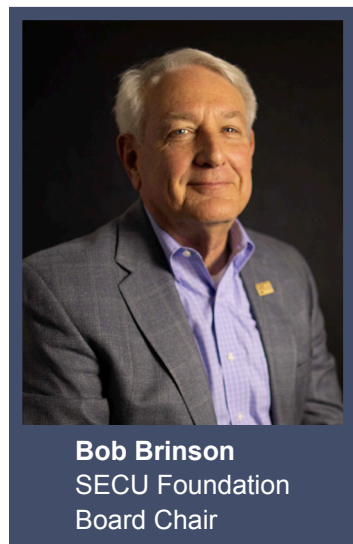


SECU Foundation

2023 Report of the Chair



As a member of the SECU Foundation Board of Directors, I have the honor of working firsthand with one of the most impactful charitable organizations in our state. It is unique in many ways, starting with the funding, which is done through the reallocation of State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) members' \$1.00 monthly checking account maintenance fee to SECU Foundation. We refer to this concept as "The Power of a Dollar." It is indeed powerful, and I continue to be in awe of what is accomplished year after year. As Board Chair, I have enjoyed the opportunity to travel across the state telling the SECU Foundation story, highlighting the important work being done through the non-profits we support, and sharing how our common goal of helping others is creating positive results for the people of our state. We are uplifted by your generous support and commitment to SECU Foundation's mission, which allows us to strengthen, grow, and sharpen our ability to leverage grantmaking efforts in areas where we have the greatest impact: education, housing, healthcare, and human services.

If I had to describe the past fiscal year in one word, it would be *stellar*. When SECU Foundation was established in 2004, the Board was aiming for the stars, and I am happy to report that 2022-23 brought us two milestones that are truly out of this world. We surpassed a quarter of a billion dollars in grants and financing for North Carolina non-profits and reached our largest year-to-date giving with funds awarded to 56 non-profits for initiatives totaling over \$23 million. In our collective efforts to make a long-lasting difference in our communities, here are a few examples of how we are living out the credit union philosophy of *People Helping People*®.

Through the award-winning Mission Development Grant (MDG) program, SECU Foundation continued to shine a spotlight on many non-profits, providing a \$40,000 grant and professional consultant to help them set priorities for growth and strategically expand impact and services to achieve their goals. Organizations large and small are benefiting from the program, particularly those in historically underserved or lower resourced areas where community needs are largely unmet. Four Square Community Action in the far western corner of Cherokee County, Grahamtown Team in Rutherford County, Family Promise of Davie County, and Tried by Fire in Craven County were among 40 non-profits awarded an MDG last year. We are so pleased that this program is filling the funding gap for these non-profits. From the feedback we have received, it is exceeding grantee expectations – and ours, too!

We also responded to numerous large-scale funding requests. It began with a \$2 million grant to One Place in Onslow County for the future SECU Hope Center, a child advocacy and resource center dedicated to ending child abuse. This was followed by \$500,000 for Senior Services in Forsyth County in support of their campus expansion for senior adult services, including physical health, dementia care, and respite services for caregivers.

Three more initiatives drew statewide attention through our collaborative efforts with leaders from Dix Park Conservancy, PBS North Carolina, and the North Carolina Zoological Society. We first teamed up with SECU for a joint contribution of \$5 million to the Dix Park Conservancy to renovate and turn three historic stone houses on the urban park site of Raleigh's Dorothea Dix Park into a Welcome Center, corporate offices, and an educational space and garden. We also served as the presenting sponsor of PBS North Carolina's 2023 Year of the Trail series to help remind residents and visitors to explore the outdoors through the state's impressive trail system, greenways, and recreation areas. And we gifted \$2 million for the addition of a new Asia habitat complex at the North Carolina Zoo to further their efforts in protecting wildlife populations and educating the public.

To help address the growing needs of the homeless population through permanent supportive housing, SECU Foundation provided a \$500,000 gift to Homeward Bound in Asheville, resulting in 85 of the area's most vulnerable individuals having a safe and stable home of their own through a new housing complex. In the northwest region of the state, hundreds of residents, including more than 62,000 SECU members who live in the area, now have access to primary healthcare services through Surry Medical Ministries' expanded clinic, the SECU Health Resource Center. The Foundation's \$1.5 million grant for the Tammy Lynn Center campus expansion will bring welcome relief to many families in Wake County and beyond who are seeking help for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our focus on education has also not waned this past year. Through your generosity, the successful *People Helping People*® high school and community college scholarship programs continue to change the lives of students, their families, and the future of our state. The annual renewal of these programs, coupled with the renewal of the scholarships awarded through SECU's Bridge to Career Program, provided nearly \$6 million in total scholarships to hundreds of North Carolina students.

While my letter offers just a glimpse of the comprehensive work that is being done to help so many people across our state, I encourage you to visit www.ncsecufoundation.org to see even more of what is being accomplished through your monthly contributions to SECU Foundation. Together, we are uplifting communities and improving the health and well-being of fellow North Carolinians.

The work from the past 19 years is quite remarkable as SECU Foundation continues to be a powerful force through initiatives that inspire people to conquer their health challenges, further their education, overcome homelessness, and transform their lives. Thank you for your dedicated support of SECU Foundation. It has been a true honor and privilege to serve as your SECU Foundation Board Chair.

Sincerely,

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".

Bob Brinson
SECU Foundation Board Chair