



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Sawnee Electric Membership  
**FOUNDATION**

Supporting the Communities We Serve

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

May 24, 2024

Greetings.

On behalf of the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation Board of Directors, I hope you enjoy reviewing the Foundation's 2023 Annual Report. You will find it contains useful information about the operations of the Foundation, a summary of the 2023 contributions received, as well as the grants that were distributed to various organizations.

I am proud to announce that during 2023, Sawnee EMC members generously donated \$81,787.24 to the Foundation through Sawnee EMC's Operation Round Up program. The Foundation also received a donation, in the amount of \$121,498.09 from Sawnee EMC's abandoned patronage capital. Of this amount, \$100,000 has been allocated to for the Youth Scholarship Program and the remaining amount is earmarked for Bright Ideas, General Grants and the School Lunch Program.

Additionally, the Foundation was able to distribute \$196,485.17 back into our local communities during 2023 through giftings to local charitable organizations, local classrooms through our Bright Ideas program, emergency assistance to Sawnee EMC members who lost their home due to a fire, and assisted thirty-six (36) local school with providing a hot lunch to children in need. In May of 2023, the Foundation awarded twenty (20) scholarships, totaling \$100,000, to high school seniors who reside in Sawnee EMC's service area. Gwinnett Tech Foundation, Lanier Technical College Foundation and the University of North Georgia Foundation each received \$7,500 to be used for student scholarships. The Foundation celebrates the ability to help these individuals further their education.

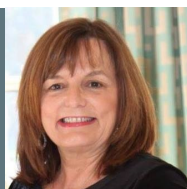
Please continue reading about the good work that the Sawnee EMC Foundation was able to accomplish in 2023, and remember, small change can change lives.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia Lundberg*

Sylvia Lundberg  
Chairman  
Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation



Sylvia Lundberg  
Chairman

# FOUNDATION OVERVIEW



The mission of the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation is to assist in strengthening the communities served by Sawnee EMC. The Foundation accomplishes its mission by providing financial assistance to charitable organizations through the Foundation's Operation Round Up program and other Board approved programs. This endeavor affords Sawnee EMC members the opportunity to "round-up" their monthly energy bills to the next highest dollar. These donated funds, along with monies from other sources, allow donations to be made to students, schools and various 501(c) (3) and 501(c) (4) organizations located generally in Sawnee EMC's service area, which includes parts of Cherokee, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall and Lumpkin counties.

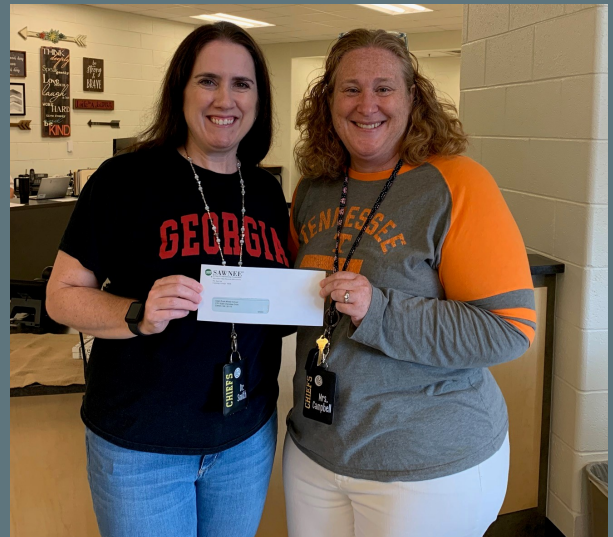


## GENERAL GRANTS

Through “Operation Round Up”, local qualifying charitable organizations apply for general grants, which are distributed on a quarterly basis. The Foundation Board evaluates these requests based on several factors, including the organization’s need, their ability to access local funding from alternative sources, other individual or corporate financial support, availability of funds, as well as other factors.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

“Bright Ideas” funds are distributed to local teachers for their classrooms. Teachers can apply for annual grants up to \$1,750 per classroom. Grants are awarded to teachers instructing students in grades K-12 within Sawnee EMC’s service territory and are used by educators to implement innovative projects to further their students’ education.



## YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, the Foundation accepts applications from local high school seniors for its “Youth Scholarship Program”. In 2023, the Foundation awarded \$100,000 to twenty (20) local high school seniors. Each student received a \$5,000 scholarship to continue their secondary education. To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$1,241,317 to local students furthering their secondary education at technical or four year college.



### **BRIAN JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Established by the Foundation in May 2015, this scholarship was developed to honor the legacy of one of Sawnee EMC's employees, Mr. Brian Johnson, who lost his life in the line of duty. The scholarship sponsors up to two (2) students annually, with a grant of \$1,500 each, to help fund tuition for recipients enrolling in the Technical College System of Georgia's Electrical Lineworker Program, of which Mr. Johnson was a proud graduate.

### **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

The Foundation is proud to support its School Lunch Program. This program allows local schools, served by Sawnee EMC, to apply for funds to help provide a hot school lunch to students who need it. In 2023, the Foundation approved funding totaling \$38,730 to thirty-six (36) area schools.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT (abbreviated)

ASSETS	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$435,858	\$428,806
Contributions Receivable	\$8,090	\$7,033
Total assets	\$443,948	\$435,839
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$443,948	\$435,839

## 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To view the full 2023 financial statements, contained in the Foundation’s 2023 financial audit, please visit our Web site at [www.sawnee.coop/sawnee-foundation-document-library](http://www.sawnee.coop/sawnee-foundation-document-library).

If you wish to receive a printed copy of the Foundation’s 2023 financial audit, please contact Mrs. Ginny Ellis, Sawnee EMC’s Chief Financial Officer, at 678-455-1578, via email at [ginny.ellis@sawnee.coop](mailto:ginny.ellis@sawnee.coop) or via U.S. Mail at Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation, P.O. Box 1174, Cumming, GA 30028.

## HOW TO DONATE

The Foundation encourages those that currently are not participating in Operation Round Up, to please consider doing so. The “power of the pennies” provides the Foundation with funds to assist many locally.

Sign up online at [www.sawnee.coop/round-up-signup](http://www.sawnee.coop/round-up-signup). With this sign-up method, Sawnee EMC will automatically “Round-Up” your Sawnee bill each month.

Contact Sawnee EMC’s Customer Call Center at [customerservice@sawnee.coop](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.coop), call us at 770-887-2363, “chat” online at [www.sawnee.coop](http://www.sawnee.coop), or text 678-999-8124.

“Round Up” at your leisure. You do not have to be enrolled in Operation Round Up to participate. Anytime you “Round Up” your Sawnee EMC electric bill to the next highest dollar, the “extra pennies” will automatically go to the Foundation.

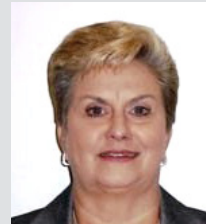
# FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Evonda Mathis**  
(Chairman)  
District #2



**Sylvia Lundberg**  
(Vice-Chairman)  
District #8



**Deborah Pelfrey**  
(Secretary)  
District #4



**Lacelle Doss**  
District #1



**Adrian Flack**  
District #3



**Ruby Coleman**  
District #5



**Henry Zuckerman**  
District #6



**Virginia Tibbetts**  
District #7



**Mechelle Needham**  
District #9



**Donna Yost**  
(Ex-Officio  
Board Member)

The Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation is led by a voluntary Board of Directors. This group of directors brings their own unique experience and guidance to the Foundation.

# 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS

## GENERAL GRANTS

Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County, Inc.  
Recovery Community Foundation of Forsyth, Inc.  
Blessings in a Backpack of Forsyth County, Inc.  
American Legion, Post 307  
Glory, Hope & Life, Inc.  
Teacher Reuse Exchange  
Skye Precious Kids, Inc.  
Literacy Network of North Georgia, Inc.  
Adventure Bags, Inc.  
MUST Ministries, Inc.  
Bald Ridge Lodge, Inc.  
Operation Appreciation, Inc.  
Camp Kudzu, Inc.  
North Georgia Crappie Anglers, Inc.  
Dawson County Wee Books Program, Inc.  
No Longer Bound, Inc.  
North Fulton Community Charities, Inc.  
Act Together Ministries

Georgia Mountains YMCA, Inc.  
Junior Achievement of Georgia, Inc.  
The Children's Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.  
Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind  
Historical Society of Cumming-Forsyth, Inc.  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, Inc.  
Mentor Me - North Georgia, Inc.  
Rachels Gift  
Rosas Gift, Inc.  
Senior Services North Fulton, Inc.  
FertilizHER Soul

## BRIGHT IDEAS

Avery Elementary School  
Black's Mill Elementary School  
Indian Knoll Elementary School  
Johnston Elementary School  
Sawnee Elementary School  
Whitlow Elementary School  
Creekland Middle School

Dean Rusk Middle School  
Haw Creek Elementary School  
Alliance Academy for Innovation  
Denmark High School  
East Forsyth High School  
North Forsyth High School  
West Forsyth High School

Information regarding the Youth Scholarship and Brian Johnson Memorial Scholarship recipients can be located online at [www.sawnee.coop/scholarships](http://www.sawnee.coop/scholarships).





Sawnee Electric Membership  
**FOUNDATION**

Contact Us:

Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1174

Cumming, Georgia 30028

[www.sawnee.coop/foundation-round-up](http://www.sawnee.coop/foundation-round-up)

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[mandy.love@sawnee.coop](mailto:mandy.love@sawnee.coop)

