



**Sawnee Electric
Membership Foundation**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I hope you enjoy reviewing the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation's 2019 Annual Report. You will find it contains useful information about the operations of the Foundation, a summary of the 2019 contributions received, as well as, the grants that were distributed to various organizations.

I am proud to announce that during 2019 Sawnee EMC members generously donated **\$101,533.20** to the Foundation through Sawnee EMC's Operation Round Up program. The Foundation also received a donation from Sawnee EMC relating to unclaimed patronage capital. This special donation was allocated to four (4) areas within the Foundation: **\$100,000** was designated specifically for the Youth Scholarship Program, **\$70,000** was earmarked for our "Bright Ideas" classroom grants, **\$74,638.04** went to General Grants and the remaining **\$170,000** was allocated for the School Lunch Program.

Additionally, the Foundation was able to distribute **\$248,850.28** back into our local communities during 2019. Giftings to local charitable organizations in 2019 totaled **\$170,392.36** and furthermore **\$43,632.92** was provided to local area classrooms through our Bright Ideas program, which allows local teachers the opportunity to implement innovative projects within their classrooms. Many of these classroom projects would have gone unfunded without this very successful program. In April of 2019, the Foundation awarded twenty (20) scholarships, totaling **\$100,000**, to high school seniors who reside in Sawnee EMC's service area. An additional **\$10,000** was awarded a local college that Sawnee EMC serves for scholarship purposes. The Foundation celebrates the ability to help these individuals further their education. Lastly, our newest initiative, the School Lunch Program, donated **\$44,075** to over 30 local schools to help provide a hot lunch to children in need. Please continue reading about the good work that the Sawnee EMC Foundation was able to accomplish in 2019, and remember, small change can change lives.

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

Sincerely,

Lacelle Doss

Chairman

Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

The mission of the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation is to assist in strengthening the communities served by Sawnee EMC. The Foundation will accomplish this mission by providing financial assistance to charitable organizations through the Foundation's Operation Round Up program and other Board approved endeavors. This program 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 501 (c) charitable organizations apply for general grants, which are distributed on a quarterly basis. The Foundation Board evaluates these requests based on several factors, which includes 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 \$1,500 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 2019, the Foundation awarded \$100,000 to twenty (2) local high school seniors. Each student received a \$5,000 scholarship to continue their secondary education.

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 these students enrolling in the Technical College System of Georgia’s Electrical Lineworker Program, of which Mr. Johnson was a proud graduate.



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM



In 2019, the Foundation began a new initiative aimed at schools that Sawnee EMC serves. This program allows schools to receive up to \$3,000 per year to fund their lunchroom’s “house account.” This financial assistance helps to ensure students continue to receive a “hot” lunch in lieu of an alternative lunch provided when a student reaches their lunch account debit limit. These schools received over \$44,000 in 2019 and the program has proven to be successful and continues to build community relationships through the Foundation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| ASSETS | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Assets</i> | | |
| Cash | \$620,719 | \$467,624 |
| Contributions Receivable | \$9,020 | \$ 8,192 |
| <i>Total assets</i> | \$629,739 | \$475,816 |
| <i>Net Assets</i> | | |
| <i>Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</i> | \$629,739 | \$475,816 |

2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To view the full 2019 financial statements, contained in the Foundation's 2019 financial audit, please visit our Web site at www.sawnee.com/foundation-round-up.

If you wish to receive a printed copy of the Foundation's 2019 financial audit, please contact Ms. Ginny Ellis, Sawnee EMC's Chief Financial Officer, at 678-455-1579, via email at ginny.ellis@sawnee.com or via U.S. Mail at Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation, 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 donations to assist many charitable organizations.

- Sign up online at www.sawnee.com/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 770-887-2363, customerservice@sawnee.com, "chat" online at www.sawnee.com, or text us at 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

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.



Lacelle Doss, Chairman
District #1



Deborah Pelfrey, Vice Chairman
District #4



Ed Ledbetter, Secretary
District #3



Evonda Mathis
District #2



Ruby Coleman
District #5



Henry Zuckerman
District #6



Dennis Anderson
District #7



Sylvia Lundberg
District #8



Mechelle Needham
District #9



Lamar Sexton
Ex-Officio Board Member