



Sawnee Electric Membership  
**FOUNDATION**

Supporting the Communities We Serve

# 2024 Annual Report



# Message From the Chairman



Greetings.

On behalf of the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation Board of Trustees, I hope you enjoy reviewing the Foundation's 2024 Annual Report. You will find it contains useful information about the operations of the Foundation, a summary of the 2024 contributions received, as well as the grants that were distributed to various organizations.

I am proud to announce that during 2024, Sawnee EMC members generously donated \$106,105.39 to the Foundation through Sawnee EMC's Operation Round Up program. The Foundation also received a donation, in the amount of \$320,414.18 from Sawnee EMC's abandoned patronage capital. Of this amount, \$100,000 has been allocated to 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 \$223,597.95 into our local communities during 2024 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-seven (37) local school with providing a hot lunch to children in need. In May of 2024, the Foundation awarded twenty (20) scholarships, totaling \$100,000, to high school seniors who reside in Sawnee EMC's service area. Additionally the Gwinnett Tech Foundation and the University of North Georgia Foundation each received \$10,000 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 2024, 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



# 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 2024, the Foundation awarded \$100,000 to twenty (20) local high school seniors. Each student received a \$5,000 scholarship to continue their education. Since 2006, the Foundation has awarded \$1,252,500 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 can sponsor up to four (4) students annually 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 2024, the Foundation approved funding totaling \$19,940.42 to thirty-seven (37) area schools.

# Financial Statements (Abbreviated)



ASSETS	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$517,981	\$435,858
Contributions Receivable	\$110,728	\$8,090
Total assets	\$628,709	\$443,948
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$628,709	\$443,948

## 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To view the full 2024 financial statements, contained in the Foundation's 2024 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 2024 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.

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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.

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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.

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"Round Up" at your leisure. You do not have to be enrolled in Operation Round Up to participate. Anytime you "Round Up" your Sawnee bill to the next highest dollar, the "extra pennies" will automatically go to the Foundation. 6



# Foundation Board of Trustees



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(Chairman)

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District #9



**Donna Yost**

(Ex-Officio Board Member)



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## Contact Us

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Cumming, Georgia 30028

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

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