

APRIL 2022

In early February, a massive fire erupted at the Winston Weaver Fertilizer Plant on the north side of Winston-Salem. The fire prompted an evacuation of residents living within a one-mile radius of the plant, and caused businesses and nonprofit organizations nearby to close. For affected residents, the fire created a financial burden for those who were out of work or had to find meals and shelter for their family. Many opted to stay in hotels, using their rent or mortgage funds to cover these additional expenses. Near the plant, the Triad Chapter of the **NC Diaper Bank** lost most of its inventory to smoke and fire damage, making it harder for the organization to meet the 400 percent increase it has experienced from families in need of baby and adult diapers during the ongoing pandemic.

The Truliant Foundation immediately donated hand sanitizer and warm blankets to an evacuation shelter at the Winston-Salem fairgrounds. Later, the Foundation provided funds to the NC Diaper Bank, to help supply additional inventory so they could continue serving low-income families in the Triad.

The Foundation also donated to **Love Out Loud**, one of the lead nonprofit organizations working to reimburse families for their evacuation costs. “We are so thankful



for the ways that Truliant steps up to support the community of Winston-Salem, especially in moments of great need like this one,” said Liz Miller, Operations and Partnership Director of Love Out Loud.

The Truliant Foundation also provided financial relief to credit union employees impacted by the fire and evacuation through the **Employee Relief Fund**. The Employee Relief Fund, a program of the Truliant Foundation, was established in November 2021 to support credit union staff who experience financial hardships due to disasters, illness or injury.



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– Liz Miller, Operations and Partnership Director of Love Out Loud

Community Development

Supporting organizations that cultivate relationships, social responsibility, civic engagement and collaboration.

Truliant partnered with the **Greensboro Swarm** for its second annual “Community Heroes Night” in February. The event serves as a thank you to local first responders while highlighting individuals who continue to keep the community safe. As a part of the partnership, the Truliant Foundation distributed 100 game night tickets to Greensboro police and fire first responders.



Community Heroes Night with Greensboro Swarm



Asheboro/Randolph Chamber Annual Dinner

In Asheboro, Truliant supported the **Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce’s** Annual Meeting in March. The event recognizes community achievements and presents awards to community leaders. Jamie Owners (left in above photo), Manager of Truliant’s E. Dixie Drive location, is a board member of the Asheboro/Randolph County Chamber of Commerce.



The Truliant Foundation recently contributed to the **Worldwide Foundation for Credit Union’s** Ukrainian Credit Union Displacement

Fund to support short and long term efforts assisting credit union members and staff displaced by the conflict in Ukraine. So far, the fund has disbursed support through Podolsk Regional Development Agency providing humanitarian aid to refugees from Kyiv, Kharhiv, Mariupol and other cities seeking refuge in western Ukraine. Truliant is one of more than 140 credit unions in the US who have pledged or donated sizable gifts to the cause.



In December, the Truliant Foundation provided support to **Friends of Sauratown Mountains** in their hope of securing a license plate featuring Pilot Mountain, following a significant fire at Pilot Mountain this fall. With help from the Truliant Foundation, Friends of Sauratown Mountains surpassed its goal of 300 plates, with 350 collected. The license plate will generate annual revenue for the nonprofit organization to continue its support of trail maintenance at both Hanging Rock and Pilot Mountain.

Economic Mobility

Strengthening organizations that build financial stability and social prosperity.

This fall, the Truliant Foundation partnered with the **Alamance Community College Foundation** to support the Food Pantry on its campus in Graham. For every new member who joined Truliant's new Graham location in November and December, the Truliant Foundation made a donation to address food insecurity among college students. The \$5,000 investment in the Food Pantry marked the largest gift in the community college foundation's history for this program. "ACC is very grateful for the generous donation provided by Truliant," said Brian Barringer, Single Stop Coordinator in the Student Success Department. "With this donation, we have been able to provide much needed food assistance to students in need."



Alamance Community College Foundation



In February, **Out of the Garden Project** in Guilford County needed additional

funds for their Fresh Mobile Markets, which are free mobile grocery stores stocked with fresh produce, bread, meats and shelf-stable food items. These markets operate in economically distressed communities in Guilford County. The Truliant Foundation Charitable Giving committee overwhelmingly approved the request, allowing Out of the Garden to serve 240 more individuals a month and roughly 4,000 more people annually.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Over the past few months, **Commonwealth Charlotte** has been preparing tax returns for low to middle-income families through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Truliant staff joined the efforts this year, offering accounts to the unbanked at a few of the VITA locations.

Last fall, the Truliant Foundation donated to **Greenville Technical College**, to support emergency needs of students. To date, the donation has helped 9 students with uniforms, clinical supplies, tool sets, welding equipment and tuition balances to keep students enrolled and focused on their education.



Greenville Technical College
(photo courtesy of Greenville Technical College)

Financial Wellness

Assisting organizations that promote and improve financial inclusion and financial literacy.



Truliant Federal Credit Union and the Truliant Foundation are collaborating with **Financial Pathways of the Piedmont** (Winston-Salem, NC) on a pilot matched savings program aimed at building savings for single mothers in Forsyth County. Through the program, 15 low-income single mothers are participating in six months of financial workshops and individualized financial counseling to help them save emergency funds. After showing six months of consecutive savings activity, the mothers will receive a 2:1 match on what they have saved, up to \$250 per participant. The Truliant Foundation is providing matching funds, and the credit union is supporting unbanked women enrolled in the program by opening savings accounts. “The relationship between Financial Pathways of the Piedmont and Truliant has expanded over many years and in many capacities. I wanted to start a matched savings program and I knew I needed funds for the matched savings. I reached out to Truliant and to have them on board has been great,” said Lisa Terry, Director of Financial Education at Financial Pathways.



Last month, Truliant led financial wellness workshops for **The Males Place** and **Right Moves for Youth** in Charlotte. The Males Place provides life skills and resources for young black males, ages 13-18, as they transition to adulthood. Right Moves for Youth is a school-based youth development and student support program to help teens succeed in school and life. Ranson IB Middle School hosted the Right Moves for Youth workshop.



In 2021, Truliant funds supported Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS), a program of **Family Services of the Piedmont**, as it expanded individual counseling, coaching and financial workshops for low to moderate income families. To date, 134 low-income individuals have benefited from Truliant’s investment. 73 percent of participants reported saving money because of the program, and 87 percent shared that their debt load was decreasing. That was the case for Linda* who left a marriage and found herself behind on mortgage payments. “Family Services made me feel comfortable. They helped me understand my finances and my credit and taught me how to budget,” Linda said. “I made the little changes that I needed to make and I have stayed in my home. I want people to know that help is out there.”

** Name changed for anonymity*

The Truliant Foundation recently awarded more than \$42,000 in **Financial Education Grants** to 10 teachers and one school system in categories of Entrepreneurship, Money & Credit Management, Financial Planning, Income & Careers and Professional Development. This year the Truliant Foundation prioritized grants to teachers who are or will be teaching the new Economics and Personal Finance curriculum in NC high schools. Congratulations to these educators:

Kelly Challand, Providence High School, Charlotte NC

Kathleen Cruze, Guilford County Schools Social Studies, Greensboro NC

Aretha Garr, The Academy at Smith High School, Greensboro NC

Tamara Glover, West Charlotte High School, Charlotte NC

Chandra James, Northwest Guilford High School, Greensboro NC

Marquita Orina, Turning Point Academy, Charlotte NC

Nicole Penn, Western Guilford High School, Greensboro NC

Mary Neill, Southwestern Randolph High School, Asheboro NC

Lohanna Sanchez, Northwest Guilford Middle School, Greensboro NC

Terri Sanchez, South Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte NC

Shalinda Witcher, The Academy at Smith High School, Greensboro NC

Youth & Education

Sustaining education and programming for middle and high school students.

To commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Truliant Foundation highlighted five black-led nonprofit

leaders who are making a tremendous impact on the lives of teens in our local communities.

The Foundation provided each nonprofit with a donation, and the credit union featured each of the five leaders on social media in January.



Top left to right: Randi Francis, Executive Director of Nehemiah Community Empowerment Center in Greensboro, joins Community Affairs Director Atticus Simpson at the January taping of Triad Today with host Jim Longworth; Randi Francis, Founder and Executive Director – Nehemiah Community Empowerment Center, Greensboro NC; Rebecah Smith and Sammy Poindexter, Volunteer Leaders – T.G. Howard Community Center in Pulaski VA; Bottom left to right: Kenya Thornton, Founder and Executive Director – Eliza's Helping Hands in Winston-Salem NC; Latoya Fastin, Founder and Executive Director – She Built This City, Charlotte NC; Randy Jackson, Executive Director – Phillis Wheatley Community Center, Greenville SC

Recognition



During the recent **Carolinas Credit Union Foundation** Gala and Awards Dinner, Truliant Federal Credit Union received two awards for its community engagement work. Truliant was honored with a first place Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Award for its “Brighter Days” initiative during holiday season 2020. The credit union also received an Honorable Mention in the Desjardins Financial Education category for its Financial Education Workshops, which began in 2020.



In January, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s CDFI Fund approved Truliant Federal Credit Union as a Community Development Financial

Institution (CDFI). The CDFI certification allows Truliant to access grants and federal funds to expand products and services to low-income communities.



Judy Wishnek, Vice President and Commercial Market Executive in Charlotte, serves on several boards making a positive impact on Truliant Communities. In addition to serving as the President Elect to be for Women Executives, she also represents Truliant on the Central Piedmont Community College Foundation, the Urban Land Institute, and the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance.

#trucommunity

The mission of Truliant Federal Credit Union is to improve lives by putting our members first, providing great service and straightforward financial solutions. To learn more about Truliant Federal Credit Union’s community engagement program, or to apply for a grant, sponsorship, charitable contribution, **or to make a contribution to the Truliant Foundation** please visit www.truliant.org/community or send an email to community@truliantfcu.org.

