Introducing the Truliant Foundation

This month, Truliant will launch The Truliant Foundation to further support its commitment to community and social responsibility to give back to neighbors it serves. The Truliant Foundation will provide support to internal and external credit union programs and funding initiatives. It will collaborate with organizations that align with Truliant’s mission and community focus areas. Moving forward, all of Truliant’s existing grant, donation, and scholarship programs will be funded and managed as programs of the Truliant Foundation.

“As Truliant has grown, so too has our commitment to our member-owners’ communities. Establishing the Truliant Foundation expands on our legacy of giving and the ‘People Helping People’ philosophy of credit unions. It creates a platform to deepen connections with partners as we increase contributions over time,” said Sherri Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer at Truliant.

The first new program of the Truliant Foundation is the establishment of the Truliant Employee Relief Fund. It will provide financial assistance to employees experiencing financial hardship due to events beyond their control, including disasters, extended illnesses, injuries, and other special situations. The fund was launched with personal donations from 100 percent of Truliant’s senior management, an amount matched by Truliant to start the fund.

“Truliant’s leadership team shares the vision of this fund as an important investment in our employees, so much so that 100 percent of them gave in recognition of their concern and support of our employees,” said Thomas. “We are grateful for our management’s support as anchor investors, providing not only a conduit for financial wellness, but in taking this step so early to unlock the potential of our foundation.”

The learn more about the Truliant Foundation or to make a donation to support the work of the foundation, visit www.truliant.org/foundation.

As the first major gift to a community organization, the Truliant Foundation contributed to the Mathematics and Science Education Network (NC-MSEN) at Winston-Salem State University. The gift will be used to eliminate disparities in education and prepare 6-12 graders with career skills in mathematics, science, technology and engineering.

Pictured left to right are: Atticus Simpson, Truliant Foundation; Dr. LaTanya Afolayan, Vice Chancellor of Advancement/Executive Director of WSSU Foundation; Mr. Joseph Baker, NC-MSEN Pre-College Coordinator; Mr. Keith Penn, NC-MSEN Program Specialist; Sherri Thomas, Truliant; Dr. Frank Ingram, Associate Provost.

“Establishing the Truliant Foundation expands on our legacy of giving and the ‘People Helping People’ philosophy of credit unions.”

– Sherri Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer
Economic Mobility

Strengthening organizations that build financial stability and social prosperity.

Truliant’s Hanes Mall branch manager Jafonda Johnson recently helped a member who was trying to secure reliable transportation to continue her employment at Forsyth Tech Community College. With few options left for the member, Johnson referred the member to The CARes Project, a Forsyth County nonprofit providing used vehicles to qualifying residents who need transportation to remain employed. The CARes Project was successfully able to work with the member to put her in an affordable, reliable vehicle to continue her employment and maintain financial stability in her household.

Learn more about The CARes Project here www.thecaresproject.org

The Truliant Foundation Advisory Board recently approved four grants to support local nonprofit efforts around economic mobility.

The CARes Project

A Simple Gesture in Guilford County received a grant to provide meals to 1,350 children and students in a partnership with Backpack Beginnings.

S.G. Atkins Community Development in Winston-Salem was awarded a grant to cover expenses for chefs preparing nutritious meals for more than 500 residents per week.

Roof Above in Charlotte received funds to support ongoing housing needs in the Scattered Site program.

Neighborhoods Hands received funds to support its food pantry site and its mobile food crisis program serving East Winston-Salem.

Recognition & Service

Atticus Simpson, Director of Community Engagement & Government Affairs, has joined the board of Forsyth Futures in Winston-Salem.

Lis Mulcahy, Director of Member Satisfaction, will join the Winston-Salem Police Foundation board in January 2022.
Community Development

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

Truliant participated in SHARE Charlotte’s Virtual Funder and Nonprofit Event for Black Philanthropy Month. The virtual event is an opportunity for corporate partners and foundations to build relationships with Charlotte’s black-led nonprofit organizations. This is the second year that Truliant participated in this event.

Biking is a way of life in Damascus, VA. Truliant staff and families rode their bikes in the Creeper Trail Ride to End Cancer in July. The Creeper Trail Ride is one of the largest events in Damascus, attracting hundreds of people to raise funds in memory of local residents affected by cancer. Amanda Puckett (Damascus) and Jackie Myers (Radford) both represented Truliant.

Truliant Mortgage Services participated in monthly food truck events with Brooke Cashion & Associations and Allstate in Kernersville. The food truck events were a great way to bring members of the community together in a fun, relaxed, outdoor atmosphere. Radford branch manager

Jackie Myers and Truliant at Work Financial Education Officer Brian Jones attended the outdoor Experience Pulaski Co. Expo with the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce in August. To further enhance Truliant’s community efforts, the credit union sponsored booths for five local nonprofit organizations at this year’s event.

In Wytheville, Truliant staff provided lunch in August to New Century Title & Settlement Agency, as part of the Community Kindness Counts initiative in Wythe County. The “pass it forward” program encourages the community to focus on supporting locally owned businesses.
Applications for Truliant’s Scholarships are available, now through February 1, 2022. Truliant awards multiple scholarships annually to improve the lives of high-school-aged members who wish to further their education. Scholarship opportunities are available for Truliant members who are high school seniors entering college, community college or a university in Fall 2022. Eligible students must be Truliant members with their own savings account. To learn more or to apply visit www.truliant.org/foundation and click on “Scholarships.”

The Truliant Foundation Advisory Board awarded a grant to Say Yes Guilford in Greensboro to support their First Generation College Ambassador Program. The program assists students who are the first in their families to attend a 2-year or 4-year college or university. The funds are expected to help more than 60 students in the program.

Truliant also awarded a charitable grant to the Randolph Community College Foundation for its Changing Lives Scholarship Program. The Changing Lives Scholarship Program helps students who have a demonstrated financial need but do not qualify for traditional financial aid. The program is expected to help nearly 100 students attending the community college in Asheboro.

Applications for Truliant’s scholarships are available through February 1, 2022. For more information, visit www.truliant.org/foundation
In August, Truliant presented a financial education workshop to the teen program at the McCrorey YMCA in Charlotte. The Youth Program has three focus areas: Youth Development, Social Responsibility and Healthy Living. The McCrorey Youth Program’s mission is to empower young people to reach their full potential, while providing support and inspiring action in our communities and improving individual and community well-being.

Applications for Truliant’s Financial Education Grant program are now open and can be found by visiting www.truliant.org/foundation and clicking on “Financial Education Grants.” Truliant provides grants to public school teachers grades 6-12 who are interested in incorporating financial wellness and/or career development topics in their classroom curriculum. This year, Truliant is prioritizing requests from high school Economics & Personal Finance teachers who are teaching the new, state-mandated course required for graduation. The deadline for completed applications is November 30.

In the first half of 2021, Truliant delivered 39 financial workshops to 26 unique nonprofits, reaching nearly 814 people.

39 financial workshops + 26 unique nonprofits = 814 people

Truliant awarded $45,000 to 30 nonprofit organizations through the Community Mini Grants program, to strengthen programming and support capacity-building efforts. The Community Mini Grants is a program of the Truliant Foundation.

For a list of the organizations that received funding this year go to www.truliant.org/foundation.