

EnergyUnited
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

Foundation

25
years

IN THIS ISSUE

CELEBRATING THE
25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK

KICKING OFF OUR FIRST
GIVING CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 2021

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

One of the best parts of my job is witnessing how change positively impacts our community. While this can often bring about uneasy feelings, the change that I've been able to participate in during my tenure is truly

amazing, specifically the push to integrate more electric vehicles with the infrastructure to support it, and the literal change that comes with rounding up your bills for the EnergyUnited Foundation.

This month is momentous for two reasons, the first being that it marks the beginning of National Drive Electric Week and serves as a reminder of all the amazing progress we've achieved to make electric vehicle ownership and maintenance attainable; and the second is that it signifies the 25th anniversary of the EnergyUnited Foundation and all the good it's been able to accomplish thanks to our members' generosity.

EnergyUnited is a member of Plug-In NC, a statewide advocacy group that supports plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) adoption and raises awareness of the environmental benefits of driving an electric vehicle. Within the past year, we've grown our EV infrastructure base to better support electric vehicles within our member base. We expanded our electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to include two new stations in Statesville and Mocksville. Both chargers are DC fast chargers, meaning you can charge up your electric car in no time and carry on with your busy lives.





Currently, there are approximately 20,000 electric vehicles registered in North Carolina and over 2,100 charging stations outlets with approximately 1600 in our system alone! These numbers will only increase in the years ahead as price options and additional vehicle options become available. The National Drive Electric Week is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about why going electric might be right for you, weighing the cost and maintenance benefits, and even taking an EV out for a test drive.

This month, we also take a look at the profound impact of the EnergyUnited Foundation, which is funded by Operation Round-Up. During the month of September we celebrate the 25-year anniversary and those who helped get the Foundation off the ground. Without these individuals, we wouldn't have been able to donate more than \$7 million dollars since its inception and make the differences in the lives of our members and the communities we serve.

And if you feel called, please consider donating to the 25th anniversary giving campaign that we feature on page 9. I know the support will be very much appreciated within our communities.

Sincerely,

H. Wayne Wilkins

To learn more, visit EnergyUnited.com/electric-vehicles or better yet, sign up to participate in National Drive Electric Week at DriveElectricWeek.org.

*Source: NC Clean Energy & Technology Center.

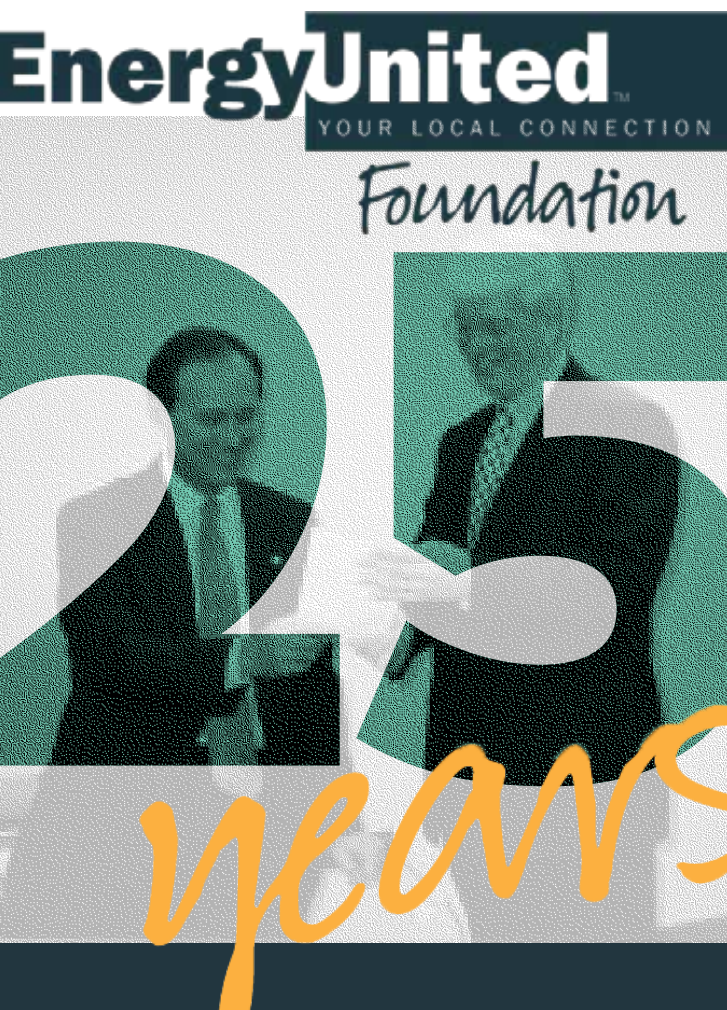


H. WAYNE WILKINS

CELEBRATING THE 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE **ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION**

As a co-op, EnergyUnited is different from other energy providers. Our ethos has always been to empower lesser-served areas and give people the power (literally) to live the life they want and deserve. And the same can be said for the EnergyUnited Foundation. Here we take a look back at all the good that the Foundation has done, and some of the amazing people who have helped it along the way, including you, our members!

The Foundation was born from an idea in the early-mid 1990s, fully taking shape as what we know it to be today in 1996. Dusty Rhodes and R.B. Sloan acted as the primary agents in getting this charitable portion of our co-op up and running. Follow along as we dive into the beginnings, the incorporation, and how the Foundation continues to serve our community.



DUSTY RHODES, EnergyUnited Communications Director

The EnergyUnited Foundation was by far one of the best things I was ever involved in, and it all started with the merger of Crescent EMC and Davidson EMC. At the time, R.B. Sloan was the CEO of Crescent EMC and Wayne Wilkins was the CEO of Davidson EMC and together Operation Round-Up and the idea of a foundation was born. But it was no small task—**what started as a small idea in 1994 finally got off the ground in 1996 with the founding of the EnergyUnited Foundation.** At the time - members weren't quite sure what to think, but with some patience and hard work we were able to show members just how meaningful and important this outreach really was. R.B. and I worked closely together to make sure our members fully understood just how impactful it was (and still is), and for that I am grateful.

Foundation board approves Round Up®

The Crescent Electric Foundation Board has approved \$25,200 in grant disbursements of monies generated from the Operation Round Up Program.

The following requests were approved for individuals in need of help due to illness, disability, or other problems:

- \$2,000 to someone badly burned in a house fire (home completely destroyed) to use for medical bills and living expenses;
- \$1,000 to an individual confined to a wheelchair for insurance and living expenses;
- \$1,000 for living expenses to an individual physically and mentally challenged as a result of a car accident;
- up to \$1,000 to a mentally challenged child for dental expenses;
- \$2,000 to assist an individual seriously ill with cancer to be used for medical bills;
- \$2,200 for the living expenses and medical bills of someone seriously ill with no income or insurance.

These disbursements have been approved for organizations providing help in communities served by Crescent EMC:

- \$3,000 to the Yokefellow Ministry for their ongoing "Good Samaritan Fund";
- \$5,000 to help fund a new shelter, clothes, as requested;
- \$3,000 to Mission to provide year motorists;
- \$3,000 to them to provide utility bills.

Application on an on-going Crescent EMC. The Crescent a 12-member evaluate the to disburse R communities Operation R in which Crescent electric bills highest dollar Crescent's m Operation R



Percent Conducted
November 1996

grants

Fifth Street Shelter Ministries to
new Battered Women's Shelter;
Big Brothers/Big Sisters for
counseling, food, and various emergency
services for needy families;
Mooreville Area Christian
Church to assist families with
unpaid medical bills, as well as
financial assistance to stranded

the Salvation Army to enable
financial assistance to the needy with

to request funds are received
on a regular basis and are available at any
Crescent office.

Electric Foundation Board is
a board which meets monthly to
review applications and decide how best
to use funds to help people in
need served by Crescent.

ound Up is a volunteer program
in which members allow their
names to be rounded up to the next
meeting. Approximately 66 percent of
members are participating in
Round Up.

Dusty Rhodes, fiscal agent
of the Crescent Electric
Foundation, presents a
check for \$5,000 to Leigh
Byers, chairperson of
"My Sister's House",
board of directors. The
check goes to the build-
ing fund for a new
battered women's shelter
in Statesville. (Statesville
Record and Landmark
Photo)



R.B. SLOAN, Former CEO of Crescent EMC & EnergyUnited

Together with Dusty Rhodes, we
laid the groundwork for what is
now known as the EnergyUnited
Foundation. **It was a way to
support others in our community
that was not determined by
any one individual, but by a
voluntary board comprised of
co-op members and community
members.** Setting it up this way
allowed us to do a lot of really neat
things and serve the members of our

community who needed it most. This also set the
frame for many of our Cooperative Principles.

As Dusty mentioned, there was a lot of hard work
that went into starting it up, but it has helped a lot
of people over the years. That feels really amazing
to know, that what started as a small, humble
effort has been able to grow to positively impact so
many in our community.

DORIS BROWN, VP of External Services

My path with the Foundation began in
1999, and the Foundation was placed
under my portfolio at the time. I didn't
necessarily seek to become involved,
but I was so glad I ended up growing
the Foundation and the awareness
around it. Within my five-year term

with the Foundation, we were growing as a co-op
and the needs within the community continued to
grow more and more. The applicants increased,
and the different organizations increased and
diversified. EnergyUnited has been able to continue
serving in the community in a really large and
meaningful way. **It's really fantastic to see the
work continue and know that I played a part in
getting it there, however small it was.**

DEBRA CITTA, EnergyUnited Foundation Administrator

I had worked for EnergyUnited full time from '98
-'04 doing marketing but left the company when
my oldest daughter was born. Despite being a new
mom I picked up part-time work here and there, and
one day, I got a call from Carol Leach who asked if
I'd be interested in becoming the new Foundation
Administrator. I interviewed with Wayne and Carol
and all that and it seemed like a perfect fit!
The hours were great with younger kids, I was
already familiar with the company, and was excited...

story continued
on page 6 >

Dear Board Members,
We would like to Thank you
for helping Dave Meyers.
Dave is without words except
a huge Thank You from the
bottom of his heart.

Sincerely,
The Family of
Dave Meyers

3-24-97
I would like to thank
the Crescent Foundation for
their assistance. It will
be a wonderful help to
myself and my wife. I am still
and I would not want to
understand surgery in mid April
before I will be able to
return to work again.
Let me thank you for
your assistance.

Jim W. Jones
170 S. M. H. H. H.
Mooreville NC
27022



R.B. Sloan Jr., Manager of Operations in 1977, giving a safety demonstration

... to get back in the working world. Eleven years later and here we are. Despite my long tenure in this role, there are always those stories and situations that really remind you why you do it.

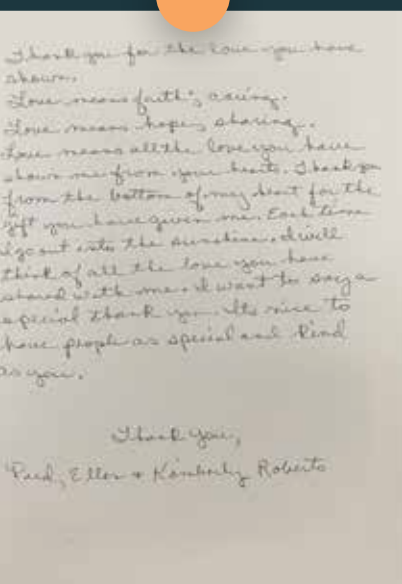
For example, in December 2020 we gave to 19 food pantries and got to meet some of the neatest people. We tried to pick some food banks that

we maybe hadn't even funded before. A mother and her two daughters had started couponing and got so much food they ended up starting a food pantry and before they knew it, were feeding hundreds of people and following through on all fronts to see how they could help even further. It's so neat to know there are people who have a heart like that to take care of people and take on the challenges.

And to the members who opt in to Operation Round-Up, the Foundation really wouldn't be what it is today without you. It may seem trivial and non-impactful but you would be amazed at how quickly it can add up. Whether you donate your change every month or are looking to become more involved in the community, I can tell you that being part of the solution for people who really need it is such an awesome feeling.

JANE EVERHART, Former Foundation Board Member

I grew up in a co-op family. My dad was the president of the Davidson EMC before they merged with Crescent EMC, so I guess you could say that being involved with my local cooperative is in my blood. But even despite this, **being a board member of the Foundation really profoundly shaped me.** You begin to realize how much a certain set of people live in their own little world existing in a fairly satisfied way. Being a part of this



Since its founding, we've been able to donate over **\$7,500,000** to nearly **5,000** individuals, households, and nonprofit organizations.

foundation gives you the opportunity to see the world as it really is. That some may not have all the things that you have. This foundation helped further cement my belief that we're expected to help mankind.

WAYNE WILKINS,
CEO, EnergyUnited EMC

My relationship with the Foundation is a bit different than what many members assume. The Foundation itself is a completely separate entity from the EMC. It operates with its own board and bylaws, but I do have a role to review the overall objectives that are set in place. In the early days, of course, there was more oversight as it got up and running, but as it has matured the Foundation has become fairly autonomous.

I still attend meetings occasionally and always come away from them feeling impressed. I think **one of the things that inspires me the most is the level of commitment and passion from our board members.** They're incredibly kind to the community. They want to help, and they want to make sure the donations are made for the right reasons and to the most deserving causes. There is a lot of time and patience that goes into it. The board analyzes things very deeply and has a very discerning perception of these things. It takes a special person to understand the application and empathize with what need is the greatest. I'm continually in awe and amazement of what the Foundation does, and how they make our co-op great.



DID YOU KNOW?

Current EnergyUnited board members Ann Eller, Jerry Anderson, and Ed Cartner were board members at the inception of the EnergyUnited Foundation!

CURRENT AND PAST ENERGYUNITED



\$25 FOR



We're launching our very first giving campaign in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Foundation. Whether you'd like to provide \$25, \$250 or \$2,500, the Foundation will greatly appreciate any monetary amount.

For all the ways you can make your donation, visit EnergyUnited.com/giving-back

Or mail check or money order to:

*EnergyUnited Foundation
c/o Debra Citta
1900 Odell Owen Road
Lexington, NC 27025*

25

years

EnergyUnitedTM
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION
Foundation

Operation ROUND-UP

Looking to give back? Operation Round-Up is a powerful way for EnergyUnited members to help others in their community by rounding up their monthly bills. The EnergyUnited Foundation is funded **entirely** by the generosity of members who give through our Round-Up program.

To learn more about the EnergyUnited Foundation or to participate in Operation Round-Up, **visit EnergyUnited.com/giving-back or call us at 1-800-522-3793.**

LEARNING THE RANGE

THAT ELECTRIC VEHICLES PROVIDE

Sales of electric vehicles (EVs) are growing nationwide, but range anxiety is one reason why many potential buyers are reluctant to make the switch. Range anxiety is the fear that an EV will run out of power and leave you stranded.

Improving EV technology and the growing number of charging stations should help put those fears to rest. Most new EV models can travel more than 100 miles on a single charge, with some topping 300 miles. That's far more than the 29 miles that the average American drives in an entire day. Plus, there are more than 28,000 public charging stations across the country, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

So, you can stop worrying and start enjoying the many benefits that EVs have to offer:

- EVs are less expensive per mile than gasoline vehicles!
- EVs are fuel efficient, converting about 60% of electrical power to wheels, while conventional vehicles convert only about 20% of the fuel stored in gasoline.
- Charge your vehicle overnight with a standard outlet in your garage, or for even faster charging, you can hire a qualified electrician to install a Level 2 charging station.
- Electric motors provide quiet, smooth operation and stronger acceleration and require less maintenance than internal combustion engines.
- On average, electric vehicles produce nearly 65% fewer emissions per year than gasoline-fueled vehicles, according to the DOE.



Curious to learn even
more about EV savings?
Check out this video.



SAVE THE DATE:
2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Meet our management team and hear from our CEO and President of the Board.

- **WHEN:** September 16, 2021, at 4 p.m.
- **WHERE:** The event can be streamed online through the EnergyUnited website, via social media as a “Live” event, or through our partnership with WSIC Radio.

MAMMA MIA! IT'S TIME FOR PASTA!

Share your favorite pasta recipes (either hot or cold) and be featured in our e-cookbook collection.

Please submit your pasta recipes no later than the 20th of the month by emailing

EU-communications@energyunited.com.

*If you don't have access to email,
please send a typed version of your recipe
with your first and last name to:*

EnergyUnited: Cookbook Collection

P.O. Box 1831

Statesville, NC 28687

**Please submit your
recipes no later
than August 20.**

PREPARING YOUR FAMILY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Keeping children safe should always be a top priority. Children don't always know what can be dangerous, so it's our responsibility as adults to teach them how to be safe around electricity.

To keep children safe from electrical hazards, follow these guidelines. →



EnergyUnited



@EnergyUnitedEMC



EnergyUnited Electric Cooperative



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