



Yearbook

2004 - 2024



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUTH TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS



Welcome
to our **20TH**
anniversary
yearbook.

“The work of the Foundation is built on our core value of giving back to the community and our collective responsibility to empower the next generation to succeed. It is a privilege to reflect on this 20-year legacy of service and see the lasting impact we have made in the local area through our commitment to providing basic necessities to children in need.”

- Jeff Bentley, NWFCU President & CEO and Chairman of the Foundation Board

Table of Contents

	Page
Welcome	01
Making a Difference Since 2005	03
A Powerful Force for Change	04
2004 The Year it All Started	05
2005	07
2006	09
2007	11
2008	13
2009	15
2010	17
2011	19
2012	21
2013	23
2014	25
2015	27
2016	29
2017	31
2018	33
2019	35
2020	37
2021	39
2022	41
2023	43
2024	45
2024 and beyond...	47

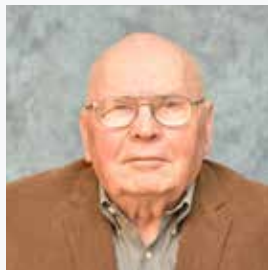
Making a Difference Since 2005

As the charitable arm of Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU), the NWFCU Foundation is a community leader dedicated to making a real difference in the lives of children through its programs. The NWFCU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity, promotes and manages Northwest Federal Credit Union's charitable activities and programs which reflect the interest of our membership and the local community -- extending beyond the service and savings of the credit union to focus on scholarships, mentoring, and youth outreach programs.

NWFCU Board of Directors



Jeff Bentley
Chairman



Juri Valdov
Vice Chair



Dave Eldred
Treasurer



Mary DeFelice
Secretary



Milly Cramer
Director



Adalene Spivy
Director

NWFCU Foundation Team



Taralyn Tharp Kohler
VP Foundation Director



Meredith Hovan
Advancement Manager



Caroline Patrickis
Community Engagement Specialist

A Powerful Force for Change.



COLLECTION DRIVES - We are committed to helping local families by providing basic needs such as food, hygiene products, school supplies, and winter coats.



MENTORING YOUTH - Empower, inspire, and motivate the next generation of leaders through programs like our Northwest mentoring program.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - Helping aspiring students achieve their dreams of attending college.

At Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) Foundation, we believe in the power of community and the potential of our youth.

Since the Foundation's inception, we have remained steadfast in our mission to empower young people by supporting their health, well-being, and education. Each year, we are inspired by the incredible impact we make together, and we are excited to share some of our recent achievements:

- \$2,152,000 in scholarships awarded to 428 deserving students, providing them the opportunity to pursue higher education and fulfill their potential.
- Financial education provided to over 36,000 students, helping shape a generation that knows how to save, spend, and share wisely.
- In partnership with local schools, we have mentored countless students, guiding them on their journey to success.
- Through 155 outreach collection drives, we've come together to meet the community's needs for food, socks, shoes, health and hygiene products, winter coats, and more.
- Our Night of Magic experience has created unforgettable memories for over 1,500 seriously ill children and their families at INOVA Children's Hospital.
- In total, we've invested over \$4 million back into the DMV area through charitable initiatives, making a tangible difference in the lives of so many.

This legacy wasn't built overnight or in isolation - it was intentionally forged by visionary leaders who took the first steps to make this possible, by dedicated individuals who volunteered their time to serve the community, and by the Foundation supporters who have furthered our mission year after year.

The Year it all Started

- The NWFCU Foundation was incorporated to promote community-based activities and financial education in the areas where our credit union branches serve.
- Our first school partner was Dranesville Elementary School in Herndon, VA.



2004

“Twenty years ago, we founded the NWFCU Foundation, with the purpose of helping children by providing scholarships to exceptional students. During those years, we have become “the heart” of NWFCU. I’m honored to have been part of our proud past and look forward to an even brighter future.”

- Juri Valdov, NWFCU Foundation Founder



As the charitable arm of Northwest Federal Credit Union, the NWFCU Foundation is a community leader dedicated to making a real difference in the lives of children through its programs.

Milestones

- Became a proud sponsor of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run
- Established a scholarship program in honor of Ben DeFelice, a credit union pioneer, awarding \$9000 to six recipients
- Donated \$10,000 to our first disaster relief grant with the National Credit Union Foundation Disaster Relief Fund in response to Hurricane Katrina
- Sponsored Dranesville Elementary school's afterschool program focusing on the "No Child Left Behind" Act
- Partnered with several local community schools, including Dranesville ES and St. Joseph's, donating books on children's economics and hosting financial education activities

"I am proud to be a part of the NWFCU Foundation. Over these past 20 years, the Foundation, in collaboration with our community partners, has been able to help many young people achieve their goals through our various programs. I am excited about the future as we expand our current programs and initiate new ones."

- Mary DeFelice,
NWFCU Foundation
Board of Directors,

2005



NWFCU Foundation Board of Directors (From left to right) Director Mary Corrado, Managing Director Barbara d'Andrade, Chairman Juri Valdov, Director Mary DeFelice, Secretary/Treasurer Belinda Burke, Vice Chairman Gerrianne Burks

“Happy 20th Anniversary to the Northwest Foundation and a special thanks to Juri Valdov, who had the vision 20 years ago to create a world class Foundation. So very proud of the contributions the Foundation has made in making a difference in the lives of the communities we serve. Can’t wait to see their meaningful impact in the years to come.”

-Winky Burks, Chair, NWFCU Board of Directors



Foundation Founder Juri Valdov visits with Elementary School students



Over 1,000 kids reached with NWFCU Foundation's financial education activities and literacy outreach



Sammy Rabbit Event - children's book character Sammy Rabbit visits with 700 students at Dranesville Elementary School



2006 Ben DeFelice Scholarship recipients

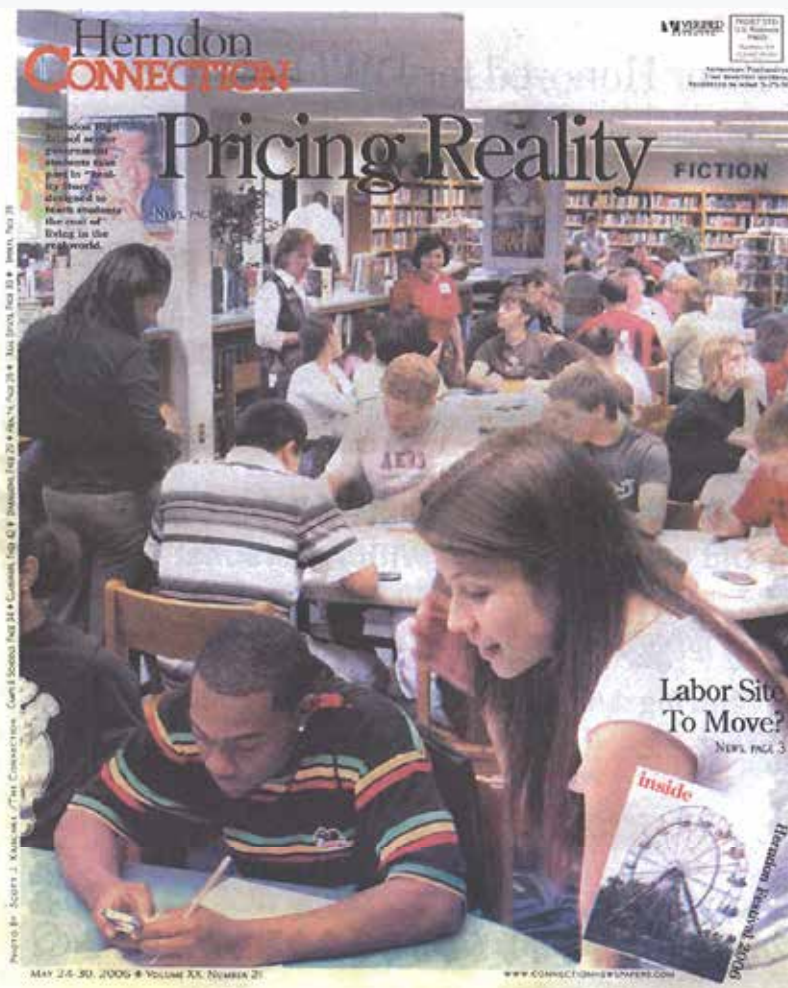


NWFCU Foundation Board of Directors (From left to right) Barbara d'Andrade, Mary Corrado, Mary DeFelice, Juri Valdov, Belinda Burke, Gerianne Burks

Milestones

- Received 501(c)(3) designation from the Internal Revenue Service
- Members contributed \$27,880 in the Foundation's first-ever fundraising effort
- 10 students were awarded a total of \$25,000 through the Ben DeFelice scholarship program
- The Foundation reached 2,700 students through school assemblies and community events

2006



2007

Milestones

- Began administering the Central Intelligence Retirees Association Scholarship Program (CIRA)
- Awarded grants to three schools to help with teacher professional development, increasing from one the previous year
- Taught over 4,100 elementary school students how to spend, save, and share wisely



“I joined the Foundation Board to get a better understanding of the work the Foundation was doing in the community. It was great to see the growth and outreach of the Foundation during my six years on the Board. My favorite Foundation event that I attended every year was the Night of Magic at children’s hospital. To see the smiles on the children’s faces was priceless. I also enjoyed the Neon Glow Run, which brought families together for a fun fundraising event.”

- Chuck Molina, 1st Vice Chair, NWFCU Board of Directors



Ten Ben DeFelice scholarship awards to local students



Volunteers from the NWFCU Foundation participated in the 15th Annual Plane Pull at Dulles International Airport benefitting community members living with disabilities



Foundation introduces food and toy drives for children living in community shelters





Foundation funded the Fairfax County Library Foundation with a donation for the purchase of financial education themed books.



The Foundation received its first corporate donation from NW Financial, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NWFCU. Northwest Financial LLC generously gave \$10,000 to fund two 2009 Ben DeFelice scholarships.

IN OTHER NEWS

Northwest Federal Credit Union, Herndon, Va., continues to reach out to young members and the community in an effort to promote financial literacy. Recently, the NWFCU Foundation help spread the importance of early saving through an interactive meet-the-author and book reading event at the NWFCU Enterprise Branch. The Sammy Rabbit Extravaganza featured Sammy Rabbit, the adventurous character in author Sam X Renick's book series that emphasizes the importance of saving and reading as its primary messages. The Foundation's event gave members and their families an opportunity to meet the children's author, Renick, and enjoy an animated book reading and signing. Children especially enjoyed dancing with Sammy Rabbit to his popular music tunes and taking their photo with Sammy as a part of the event keepsake. To support NWFCU's ongoing Children's Miracle Network (CMN) fundraising initiative, all book and music CD proceeds from the event benefited CMN. Earlier in the day, NWFCU Foundation sponsored Sammy's book readings at three local elementary schools where more than 975 students ranging in grades from kindergarten to third grade enjoyed an assembly with Renick and Sammy Rabbit. The school visits included a trip to Armstrong Elementary in Reston, Centreville Elementary School in Centreville and Dogwood Elementary in Reston.



The children who visited NWFCU for the event had the most fun dancing with Sammy.

“Our growth this year has been tremendous and during these turbulent financial times, our work is more important than ever.”

- Linda Rogus,
2007 Executive Director



Milestones

- The Foundation became a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) designated charity
- Formed partnership with Louise Archer Elementary School, Vienna, VA, Rachel Carson Middle School and Herndon High School in Herndon, VA
- Financial education program expanded to include teaching the importance of saving to preschool students at Chesterbrook Academy and adding an additional seminar on the basics of credit to our college student seminar series
- Through all of our programs, the Foundation reached 5,125 students
- Awarded \$75,000 in scholarships to 17 students

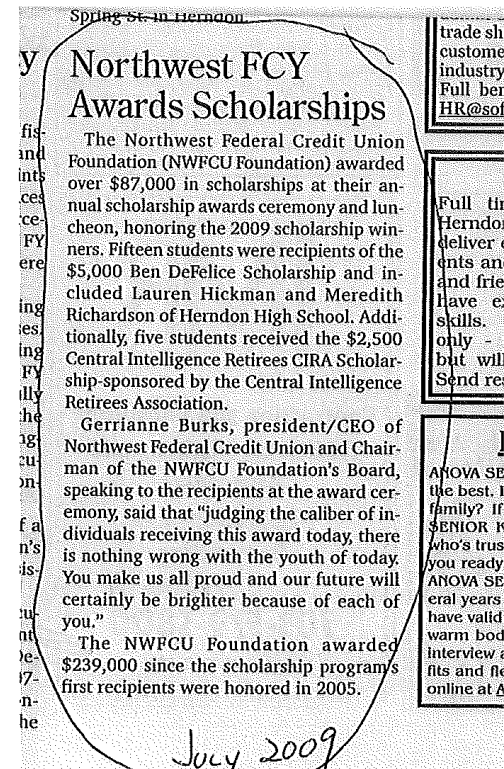
2008



2009

Milestones

- Launched the first Night of Magic, hosting critically-ill children and families at the Children's National Medical Center and raising \$16,000
- Reached more than 6,000 students in our community through a variety of financial literacy programs
- Instituted a corporate volunteer program, granting every employee during business hours to volunteer for Foundation programs
- Recognized with a number of awards including the prestigious Financial Education Advocate of the Year
- Initiated new ways to give by adding a donation option to NWLink on the NWFCU website and accepting online credit card donations



Northwest FCU, Herndon High Create Night of Magic

The Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation (NWFCU Foundation) hosted a Night of Magic ball for the patients at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The ball coincided with prom season so that patients who missed their typical proms and father-daughter dances had the opportunity to dress up and experience a special evening. Patients were able to select party attire, jewelry and accessories donated by credit union and community members.

The research atrium at Children's National Medical Center was transformed into a ballroom where more than 100 patients danced, ate, made arts and craft projects and watched professional hip hop and swing dance performances while forgetting their illnesses and worries if only for one night.

"This night has been one of the most rewarding evenings for me," said Gerrienne Burks, NWFCU president/CEO and NWFCU Foundation chairman. "NWFCU employees and members gave from their hearts and truly made a difference in many young kid's lives tonight."

Herndon High School helped NWFCU Foundation plan the ball. Students collected clothing, made boutonnières, corsages and jewelry and helped patients select their ball attire.

HERNDON CONNECTION ♦ JULY 8-14, 2009 ♦ 13



Financial Education | Scholarships | Community Initiatives



Right: "Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospitals impact the lives of children everywhere. Working together and demonstrating NWFCU Foundation's cooperative spirit allows us to help these hospitals provide the best care to those who need it the most—our children."

—Gerianne Burks,
Chairman NWFCU Foundation



Above: "I admire the strength and courage displayed by families receiving care at Children's National Medical Center. If, through our Foundation's work, we can bring a smile to their faces, then we have been successful!" —Linda Rogus, Executive Director NWFCU Foundation

Above: "Mentoring has been an excellent reminder that this life is not about one's self, but in serving and helping others. Giving of yourself to help others brings true peace in a person's life." —Jack Persinger, Fairfax County Public Schools MentorWorks Volunteer

A page from the NWFCU
Foundation 2010 Annual Report

2010

Milestones

- Employees donated over 1,700 volunteer hours to the Foundation's work
- Reached more than 5,000 students in preschool through college, teaching them to save, spend, and share wisely
- The Foundation implemented a new mentoring program at Dranesville to connect at-risk students with adults who serve as role models
- Recognized with numerous awards including from the Children's Miracle Network and FCPS Partners in Education for the Foundation's work with students



The Foundation introduced the new – Westie in the Schools program – an animated book reading with the guest author and NWFCU Mascot, Westie.



2011

Milestones

- Reached 3,500 students through the Foundation's financial education programs
- Helped local families during the holidays with 770 pounds of food and 212 toys donations by NWFCU employees and members
- Outfitted over 75 students with backpacks and school supplies
- Grew scholarship program to awarding \$115,000 in scholarships to 21 recipients



“For 20 years, the NW Foundation has had a transformative impact on the lives of the children and families it serves. With a deep belief in the importance of health, well-being, and education, the Foundation epitomizes the values of community and teamwork through its many programs. The Foundation has truly made a positive difference in our local community. It’s been an honor and privilege to support the Foundation as I believe in the power of collective action to bring about meaningful change.”

- Jean Cain, NWFCU Sr. Vice President and Chief HR Officer



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

A page from the NWFCU Foundation 2011 Annual Report

Right: "I like mentoring because I like what they do for me. They help me and teach me fun things. They also have taught me how to become a better person. I am thankful because they have helped me."
-Fairfax County Public Schools MentorWorks participant



Right: "Reaching children at a young age is imperative to developing fundamental money management skills. These are the first in a series of building blocks that create the foundation to support responsible consumers later in life."
-Gerianne Burks
Chairman NWFCU Foundation





Left: Through the kindness and generosity of our donors, we were able to supply 117 backpacks filled with school supplies to Fairfax County Public School students in need.



Top: 2012 Dulles Day Plane Pull Team, benefiting Special Olympics Virginia.



Top: Rachel Carson Middle School Best Buddies Chapter Kick-off



Milestones

- Donated more than \$150,000 since our inception to Children's Miracle Network
- Partnered with Rachel Carson MS to launch the first "Best Buddies" program in Fairfax County, which created opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Expanded education programs in Fairfax County and initiated new ones to support ones in Prince William and Loudoun Counties
- Initiated a new food backpack drive with Dranesville Elementary School
- Reached 3,600 students in 2012 through the Foundation's financial education programming

2012



2013

Milestones

- Donated over \$10,000 in disaster relief to Doctors Without Borders USA/Mèdecins Sans Frontières in response to Typhoon Haiyan
- Educated nearly 33,000 students in the importance of savings



“Thanks to the contributions of many talented volunteers and the support of you – our donors – there is much progress to report in 2013, a breakthrough year for our Foundation.”

- Linda Rogus,
Former Executive Director

Thank You for Helping Us Help Our Kids

Children danced the night away at NWFCU Foundation's Night of Magic, a fun and festive ball held for past and present patients at Inova Children's Hospital.



NWFCU Foundation Executive Director Linda Rosu and a Children's National Medical Center patient decorate a piggy bank as part of the annual Credit Union Miracle Day celebrations.



Northwest Federal Mortgage Loan Administrator Wakim Brice-Robinson works with a group of highschool seniors as part of NWFCU Foundation's Reality Store, a role-playing experience designed to help high school students understand and plan for expenses of everyday life.



Northwest Federal Vice President of Marketing Karyle Thornton carries toy donations for NWFCU Foundation's annual toy drive benefitting children in the branch communities



Northwest Federal Loan Officer Patricia D'Souza spends time with a Dranesville elementary student as part of the NWFCU Foundation's mentoring program.

"It is my honor to serve as a member of the NWFCU Foundation Board of Directors. Congratulations on 20 years of service to our community, especially our youth. I look forward to what the next 20 years and more brings as we focus on filling gaps and unmet needs. Our community's youth are stronger and empowered thanks to the work of the Foundation."

**- Dave Eldred,
NWFCU Foundation Board of Directors**



One of our youngest donors makes her annual contribution to support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.



Volunteers greet a returning Night of Magic Ball guest who attended for the fifth year.



Foundation Mentors with Dranesville students at the end of the year celebration.



Our first Summertime Food Drive was a huge success. We presented Lisa Lombardozzi, President of LINK, Inc., with nearly 10 tons of food and donated \$7,500 to help needy local families.



Milestones

- Celebrated 10 years of community service and outreach
- Launched first Summertime Food Drive, presenting LINK with nearly 10 tons of food
- Completed our 100th outreach drive, serving our community's greatest basic needs

“The NWFCU Foundation has been addressing unmet needs and empowering youth in our community for 20 years. As we embark on our next 20 years and beyond, the Foundation will be serving each community where the credit union serves its members. As Foundation superheroes, we will continue to change the lives of countless youth, supporting their health, well-being and education.”

- Meredith Hovan,
NWFCU Foundation Advancement Manager

2014



2015

Milestones

- Held inaugural NWFCU Neon Night Glow Run, raising critical funds to support the Foundation and our annual Night of Magic Event
- Served 800 critically ill children and their families since Night of Magic launch
- Awarded \$958,650 in scholarships since inception



“I am proud to be a part of the NW Foundation. We build strong communities, inspire hope, and create lasting change. We make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.”

- Milly Cramer, Member, NWFCU Foundation Board of Directors,
NWFCU Senior Vice President Operations





2016 Foundation Scholarship Recipients



*Fashion For A Cause
Fundraiser in partnership
with Jimmy Choo*



*#givingtuesday food
donation to LINK, Inc.*



*Donation of backpacks and supplies for
Dranesville Elementary School, Herndon, VA*



*The Herndon Police Department made a donation after
the Neon Night Glow Run to support the Night of Magic.*

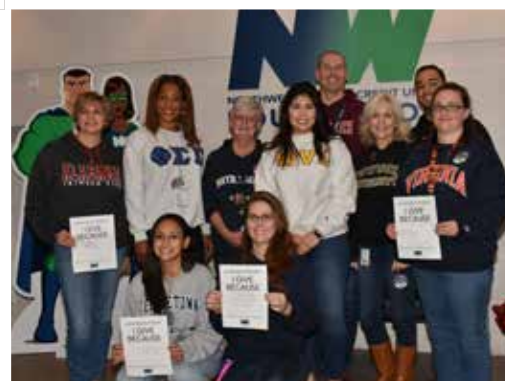
“Your contributions help drive our mission to empower youth to achieve their goals by helping them learn and celebrate life and by supporting their health and well-being.”

**- Alexandra Shade,
2015 Executive Director**

Milestones

- Formed a Need-Based Scholarship Program to focus on outstanding students needing financial support
- Launched a new Mission, Vision, and Values Statement for the Foundation focusing on youth
- Hosted our Inaugural Drive for the Driven Golf Tournament
- Awarded the Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Award and Washington Business Journal Corporate Philanthropy Award

2016



2017

Milestones

- Introduced the superhero theme for the Foundation
- Established Higher Education Community College Award
- Held six Community Outreach Drives to support youth
- Presented Carvana car to Raffle Winner with proceeds benefitting the Aspire Higher Scholarship Program
- Fundraised \$290,000 to support scholarship, mentorship, and outreach programs







Milestones

- Recognized as Best of Reston Honoree for our philanthropic work and volunteer spirit
- Nominated for Volunteer Fairfax Award
- Launched Wacky Wednesdays, a surprise party for youth at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center
- Provided 2,000 backpacks to students in need at local schools
- Continued to bring smiles through Night of Magic

2018



2019

Milestones

- Celebrated our 15th anniversary in the community
- Hosted the 10th annual Night of Magic for 172 patients and their families
- Awarded \$150,000 in scholarships



Juri Valdo, NWFCU Foundation Founder recognized for his service to the Foundation.

“I’m immensely grateful for the support from our members and the community, which enables us to give back in meaningful ways. Witnessing the gratitude from those we serve inspires us every day. Here’s to the next 20 years of growth, dedication, and empowering our youth to thrive!”

- Caroline Patrickis, NWFCU Foundation Community Engagement Specialist



“Volunteering with the NWFCU Foundation is so rewarding. Being able to work directly with members of our community and seeing the smiles on the faces of the families and students is amazing.”

- Terri Barnett, NWFCU VP Talent & Acquisition & HR Operations



Milestones

- Pivoted the Foundation efforts to focus on supporting the community through drives due to the pandemic-induced unprecedented increase in needs
- Collected and delivered 33,000 food items to feed children in need throughout the greater Washington Metro Area in partnership with 13 Giant Food stores
- Distributed 51,000 diapers to Northern Virginia families
- Delivered 1,000 winter coats and accessories to students
- Purchased \$2,500 worth of tablets to lessen the digital divide for students learning from home
- Awarded \$130,000 in scholarships

2020



2021

Milestones

- Introduced the Foundation's "Legacy Program" allowing donors to leave a lasting impact
- Responded as students returned to in-person school needing school supplies at record-breaking levels
- Partnered with 17 Giant Food Stores to support the Foundation's food insecurity drives
- Awarded \$130,000 in scholarships





“The Foundation does a tremendous job providing for the needs of youth and families in our community. I know that our firm’s financial support for the Foundation — and our team’s generous individual contributions — make a direct and powerful impact on the well-being of our neighbors. This is why we have been a strong advocate for the Foundation since its inception. It is truly a meaningful partnership and one that we plan to continue for many years to come.”

- Kevin Fisher, President & CEO, Northwest Financial Advisors





Milestones

- Distributed 50,000 diapers to Northern Virginia families
- Gifted 2,000 coats and winter accessories
- Awarded \$135,000 in scholarships
- Provided 60,000 school supply items to four local elementary schools
- Partnering with Giant Food, Northwest provided food items to under-resourced families in the communities where Northwest serves its members

2022



2023

Milestones

- Awarded scholarships to 37 students totaling \$130,000
- Collected over 10,000 food items for distribution
- Gifted over 500 coats and winter accessories to youth
- Distributed over 350,000 diapers historically to Northern Virginia families
- Northwest Federal Credit Union becomes the official credit union of the NFL's Washington Commanders



“Congratulations to the Foundation and the entire NWFCU team for 20 years of extraordinary community impact! It is an honor and privilege to work along side you in this important work. Here’s to many more decades of vital support for our region’s youth!”

- Nene Spivy, NWFCU Foundation Board Member





Milestones

- Became a sponsoring organization of the President's Volunteer Service Award
- Completed our 155th outreach collection drive, meeting basic needs in the communities where Northwest serves
- Awarded \$139,000 in scholarships to 29 recipients, bringing the grand total to \$2,152,650 awarded
- Collected and distributed over 36,000 food items to address food insecurity
- Introduced "Step Into Success", an effort to provide at-risk students a new pair of athletic shoes for the beginning of the school year
- Invested over \$4 million in community outreach since 2004
- Launched the N.E.E.D.S. Project



2024





2004 2024

20 Years to Remember



“After 20 years of serving youth in the community, we recognize that the needs of today are just as pressing as they were at our founding. While those needs have evolved, our commitment remains steadfast: to adapt, address these gaps, and create life-changing impact—making a meaningful difference, one child at a time.”

- Taralyn Tharp Kohler, VP Foundation Director