

FOUNDATION

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#### The GECU Foundation\* was created in 2007 to contribute to the credit union's people helping people philosophy by supporting nonprofit organizations in the communities that we serve through fundraising, volunteerism and philanthropic giving.

The GECU Foundation focuses on 12 core developmental issues that affect our communities: Health Hunger

 Housing Education Environment Transportation  Access to credit Savings mobilization

- Appropriate technology • Employment and income generation
- Inclusion Diversity and equity

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The GECU Foundation is the philanthropic arm of GECU that operates to elevate the communities that we serve and the credit union movement through strategic fundraising and charitable giving.

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# ANESSA

Throughout the past year, we successfully continued our work and efforts to elevate people's lives in the El Paso, Texas, community and expanded our reach to new communities in New Mexico. We made an impact on these communities through charitable giving to support important issues that affect the lives of their people one of those issues being food insecurity which has been increasingly affecting families everywhere. We were honored to expand our philanthropic giving to Casa de Peregrinos' food pantry to help combat food insecurity in Southern New Mexico.

To amplify our impact, we partnered with the National Credit Union Foundation to host the Development Educators Workshop. This collaborative effort allowed us to share our expertise with fellow credit union professionals to empower them with insights about effectively serving and understanding the Hispanic community. We aspire to continue to help communities throughout Texas and New Mexico in the coming years.

We are grateful for the generous support that we receive from our donors, the GECU Foundation Board of Directors, GECU employees and members, and our community sponsors by helping us contribute to initiatives and nonprofit organizations that fulfill the needs of the communities that we serve. It is an honor to work with various community organizations that focus on the same 12 developmental issues.

We're looking forward to continuing to work with community organizations and to serve new communities. We thank our esteemed board of directors for the invaluable gift of their time, leadership, and expertise that they generously contribute to the GECU Foundation. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in strengthening our communities.

# BOARD OF BIRECTORS

Crystal Long, Chairman GECU







and support the core developmental issues.

Our members of the board of directors generously volunteer their time and expertise to guide the GECU Foundation, grant funds to nonprofit organizations in the communities that we serve,















When you donate to the GECU Foundation, it allows us to continue to elevate the lives of people in the communities that we serve. In 2023, we were able to contribute close to \$585,000 to help enrich the El Paso, Texas, community and Southern New Mexico thanks to our donors and fundraising efforts. 10% of donations and 15,247 volunteer hours came from generous GECU employees. Additionally, we raised close to \$80,000 at our GECU Foundation Golf Tournament fundraising event.



104

**EXPENSES** 

\$259,555		
		\$1, <mark>215,46</mark> 8
\$337,767	_	
	\$584,698	
\$276,866		
\$275,692		

VITA

\*\*The information above is from unaudited financial statements.

In 2023, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program enlisted the help of 300 certified, bilingual volunteers including GECU employees and high school and college students - to file tax returns free of charge for eligible households. There were more than 20 VITA sites located throughout El Paso, Texas, at community centers, schools and GECU locations where our volunteers helped families get the most out of their tax refund.

By the end of the 2023 tax season, our VITA volunteers filed 11,584 tax returns, helping bring in a total of \$17.2 million in tax refunds and saving more than \$3.4 million in tax-preparation fees for the El Paso region.









# ECURITY

According to recent research, 35% of adults in El Paso County, 61% of UTEP students, and more than 65,000 individuals in Doña Ana County face food insecurity. The GECU Foundation acknowledges the importance of this issue and expanded its help to more areas of the communities that we serve by donating to the Casa de Peregrinos food pantry in Las Cruces, New Mexico. We continue to collaborate with Mi Comunidad Center food pantry, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank, Kelly Center for Hunger Relief and other organizations that focus on providing meals to those in need, and hope that we can continue to expand our efforts to help combat this issue.

# **CASA DE PEREGRINOS NEW MEXICO**

Casa de Peregrinos (CDP) was founded in 1972 and has grown into the largest and most successful food pantry in Southern New Mexico. Their mission is to end food insecurity in Doña Ana County while mobilizing resources that build strong, diverse, inclusive relationships and partnerships in the community. CDP serves more than 21,000 individuals and distributes more than 4.5 million pounds of food each year. Our contribution funded more than 700 nutritious food baskets in support of the Food Security program that provides supplementary food sources to low-income families.

## **MI COMUNIDAD HOLIDAY EVENTS**

Thanks to our generous donors and supporters, the GECU Foundation was able to provide Thanksgiving dinners to 300 families and 200 toys to children for the Christmas season at Mi Comunidad Center in El Paso, Texas. The center is a space where members of the El Paso community can gather for group activities, a monthly food pantry, ESL classes, after-school tutoring, free tax preparation during tax season, free financial education presentations and more.







The GECU Foundation joined the 100th anniversary celebration of United Way of El Paso County (UWEPC) by increasing our commitment toward a three-day digital exhibition in honor of the services and work that the organization has provided throughout the years. Our donation will help UWEPC continue to focus on supporting individuals in the areas of education, health and basic needs, engagement, and financial stability. United Way helps individuals access services such as:

NAKING COMMUNITIES STRONG

- Parenting programs that support children's development Mental health services for families from trained professionals • Mobile food pantries that are available across El Paso, Texas Job skills training for parents, caregivers and others
- **HOSPICE OF EL PASO**

Hospice of El Paso (HOEP) provides comfort, care and choice to patients with compassionate end-of-life care while guiding their loved ones through the grieving process. Our contribution helped strengthen the HOEP Butterfly program for pediatric patients that covers hospice care services to younger patients. The funds granted to this program were utilized to acquire essential medical supplies and equipment, medication, formula, and care.









\$13,242 DONATED





### **CHILDREN'S GRIEF CENTER OF EL PASO**

Children's Grief Center of El Paso (CGC) provides grief support services to children, teens and their families after the loss of a loved one. The GECU Foundation's contribution provided services for 10 families to attend eight family group sessions each in 2023. In addition, GECU employees, volunteers and board members gathered with CGC staff on December 11, 2023, for a holiday celebration. During this event, GECU employees and volunteers provided 40 gifts to the youth and served hot meals to the families of the center.









### LA NUBE - EL PASO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

La Nube, El Paso's children's museum, is a new interactive center of imagination, exploration and creativity that is designed for children and adults to embrace their natural curiosity and learn through play. The GECU Foundation is sponsoring three cocoons at the Making Waves exhibition, located on the fourth floor of La Nube. This exhibition will allow guests to feel music through a vibrating platform,





record their own videos, and learn about music through coding.



## **REBUILDING TOGETHER EL PASO**

Rebuilding Together El Paso is a nonprofit organization that provides older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans with necessary improvements and safety enhancements to their homes at no cost. In 2023, GECU employees volunteered to help paint a house. The homeowner, a woman who lives on her own, was pleased with the work that was done to her home to preserve its condition and to support her mental and spiritual well-being.



### **EI PASO PRO MUSICA**

El Paso Pro Musica seeks to enhance music education and appreciation in the El Paso, Texas, community by recruiting professional, world-renowned artists to perform chamber music concerts for students ranging from kindergarten to college. Our donation supported the El Paso Pro Musica Educational Outreach and Community Engagement program that provides chamber music concerts to kindergarten classrooms. Annually, El Paso Pro Musica serves more than 10,000 students through its Educational Outreach and Community Engagement program.

\$15.000 DONATED



\$5,000 DONATED



We are deeply grateful for the generosity and support that is extended to us by our donors and sponsors. Their support allows the GECU Foundation to continue granting funds to various organizations.

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The GECU Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity established to maximize philanthropic efforts benefitting education, community programs and charitable giving. If you itemize deductions on your federal tax return, you may be entitled to claim your donation to the GECU Foundation as a charitable deduction. Please consult your tax adviser.

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